



ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

A place for every citizen

ACTIVITY REPORT

of the National Assembly of Québec

2011 2012



assnat.qc.ca

Front cover:
The bell tower rises above the coats of arms sculpted
in high relief on the facade of the Parliament Building.

Photo: Christian Chevalier, National Assembly Collection



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This publication was prepared in collaboration with the senior management and the personnel of all the administrative units of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise specified, the information in this activity report covers the National Assembly's activities from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am very pleased to submit to you the *Activity Report 2011-2012* of the National Assembly of Québec. This document reflects the efforts undertaken to maintain and strengthen representative democracy in Québec, for the benefit of the overall population of Québec. Within these pages you will find a summary of the work carried out by Members in the Assembly and in committee, a description of the institutional activities that took place at the National Assembly, and a brief look at the various achievements at the administrative level.

Furthermore, this report takes a closer look at a very special year, marked by the 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building and the 140th anniversary of the Press Gallery of the Parliament of Québec. In this regard, several activities were organized to underline these special events. Among the more notable of these were the Symposium on Democracy, Parliamentarians and the Media, which brought together close to 400 participants from a variety of backgrounds. This unique meeting enabled renowned figures from Québec, Canada and abroad to participate in the conferences and workshops held during this activity.

The National Assembly also hosted the 11th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), which brought together some 220 delegates hailing from 36 parliaments of the Americas. At the conclusion of this meeting, the Québec Declaration was adopted by the COPA members, who undertook, in particular, to work towards improving the democratic operation of parliaments, to promote gender equality, to consolidate the electoral observation mission program, to ensure the integration of sustainable development in the political and legislative actions of parliaments, and to ensure that the Regional Millennium Development Goals are met in the near future.

At the parliamentary and legislative level, the tabling of the report from the Select Committee on Dying With Dignity concluded two years of consultations and work carried out in several regions of Québec. Through these activities, the Assembly increased its efforts to get closer to citizens. I hope that reading this report will provide you with greater insight into the role and work of our Institution. I also hope that it will allow you to get a better understanding of the scope of the legislator's work and to become better acquainted with the exercise of democracy in Québec.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to be "J. Chagnon". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jacques Chagnon
President of the National Assembly



A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



I am most proud to join the President in presenting this 13th activity report which provides an overview of parliamentary work and the main achievements of the Assembly's administration for the past fiscal year. The administrative staff is composed of 610 dedicated women and men. This report gives a detailed account of the achievements of the Assembly personnel. I wish to highlight some of these.

First, I would like to underline the fact that the organization of proceedings, both in the House and in committee, underwent modifications on several occasions owing to the numerous changes in the composition of the Assembly. Once again, our long-standing democratic tradition ensured that our Assembly was able to evolve to better reflect the political landscape. Similarly, I must emphasize the work of the Select Committee on Dying With Dignity, which demonstrated the full relevance of our parliamentary institution when it comes to addressing the major issues that concern citizens. Another significant event is the publication of the 3rd edition of *La procédure parlementaire du Québec*, which provides detailed information on the operation of our Parliament.

On another note, various changes had a significant impact on the organization of work as well as on the finances of the Assembly. In this regard, the Office of the National Assembly authorized major changes to the administrative structure of the Assembly. These aim to improve the quality of services provided to Members and to the population, to regroup certain complementary services and generate recurrent savings, among other ways, by reducing the number of management positions. Moreover, the implementation of IP telephony contributed to improving the range of services provided while allowing for substantial savings. With regard to reprography services, the installation of new equipment will reduce costs over the next few years, while maintaining high quality service.

In closing, I wish to sincerely thank all of the staff members of the National Assembly, who put their heart and energy into serving those who embody our great democratic institution: the parliamentarians.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michel Bonsaint'.

Michel Bonsaint

Secretary General of the National Assembly



HIGHLIGHTS

Election of Mr. Jacques Chagnon as President of the National Assembly

On 5 April 2011, the Member for Westmount – Saint-Louis, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, became the 45th President of the National Assembly of Québec. Holding a degree in political science from Concordia University (1975) and from the Université de Montréal (1977), he was a commissioner at the Commission scolaire Saint-Exupéry (1975), then executive director of the Québec Federation of Catholic School Boards (1982-1985). First elected as a Member of the National Assembly of Québec on 2 December 1985, he notably held the office of Minister of Education (1994) and of Minister of Public Security (2003 to 2005) before being elected Second Vice-President of the Assembly, in 2007.



125th anniversary of the Parliament Building: special activities

On 8 April 1886, Members sat for the first time in the current National Assembly Chamber. It is there that for the past 125 years parliamentarians have been exercising their triple role as legislators, controllers and intermediaries. Therein they pass laws, control the actions of the government and represent their constituents. In 2011-2012, the National Assembly celebrated the anniversary of the Parliament Building, symbol of democracy and great witness to our history. For this occasion, several special activities were organized, including two open-house days, the *Je me souviens* exhibition and a television program of the *Figures de la démocratie* series dedicated to the person who designed the Parliament Building, Eugène-Étienne Taché.



Hôtel du
Parlement
Québec

HIGHLIGHTS



11th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

For the first time in 14 years, the National Assembly hosted, from 5 to 9 September 2011, the General Assembly of COPA, an organization created in 1997 at the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec. Close

to 220 delegates hailing from all of the Americas regions took part in the proceedings of this assembly. United under the theme "Parliaments of the Americas: Present!", parliamentarians discussed the fundamental social issues proposed by the President of the National Assembly and of COPA, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, in his *Plan of the President*, namely reducing child mortality, encouraging students to stay in school, reducing gender wage gap, and protecting water resources. At the conclusion of this assembly, COPA members unanimously adopted the Québec City Declaration. In this important document proposed by the Chair, COPA parliamentarians committed, among other things, to improve in a sustained manner the democratic operation of parliaments, to work toward gender equality, to contribute to consolidating democracy by supporting the development of COPA's electoral observation mission program, and to ensure the integration of sustainable development in political and legislative actions.

11th General Assembly of the COPA, on 7 September 2011. Left to right: Ms. Zulma Ramona Gómez, First Vice-President of the COPA and Senator of Mexico, Ms. Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly of Québec and President of the COPA, Mr. Óscar Arias, former President of Costa Rica, Ms. Cristina Ruiz Sandoval, Executive Secretary of the COPA and Deputy for the State of Mexico, and Ms. Diva Hadamira Gastélum, President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and Deputy for Mexico.

Tabling of the report from the Select Committee on Dying With Dignity

On 22 March 2012, after more than two years of work, the chair and the vice-chair of the Select Committee, Mmes. Maryse Gaudreault and Véronique Hivon, tabled a report containing 24 unanimous recommendations. The Committee was created on 4 December 2009 and was instructed particularly to hold a general consultation on end-of-life conditions, palliative care and euthanasia. After having heard experts, the Committee travelled to eight cities to hold public hearings. These consultations began on 7 September 2010 and ended on 22 March 2011. The Committee proceedings were marked by a strong participation of citizens and groups, which greatly helped the members in their reflection when drafting this report. It should be noted that the Committee received over 300 briefs and requests to be heard and close to 6,600 replies to the online questionnaire.





The President, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, accompanied by the Assembly staff members who contributed to the publication of the book at its launching

Publication of the third edition of *La procédure parlementaire du Québec*

The President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, launched the third edition of the book entitled "La procédure parlementaire du Québec" on 28 February 2012. A key tool for understanding the workings of our institution, this third edition differs from the previous two, which were released respectively in 2000 and 2003. Indeed, two events brought about major changes in the organization and proceedings of the National Assembly and its committees: the election, in 2007, of the first minority government in the history of contemporary Québec, including the presence of a third parliamentary group, and the adoption, in April 2009, of a reform of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly and of its Rules of Procedure.

Celebration of anniversaries of parliamentary life

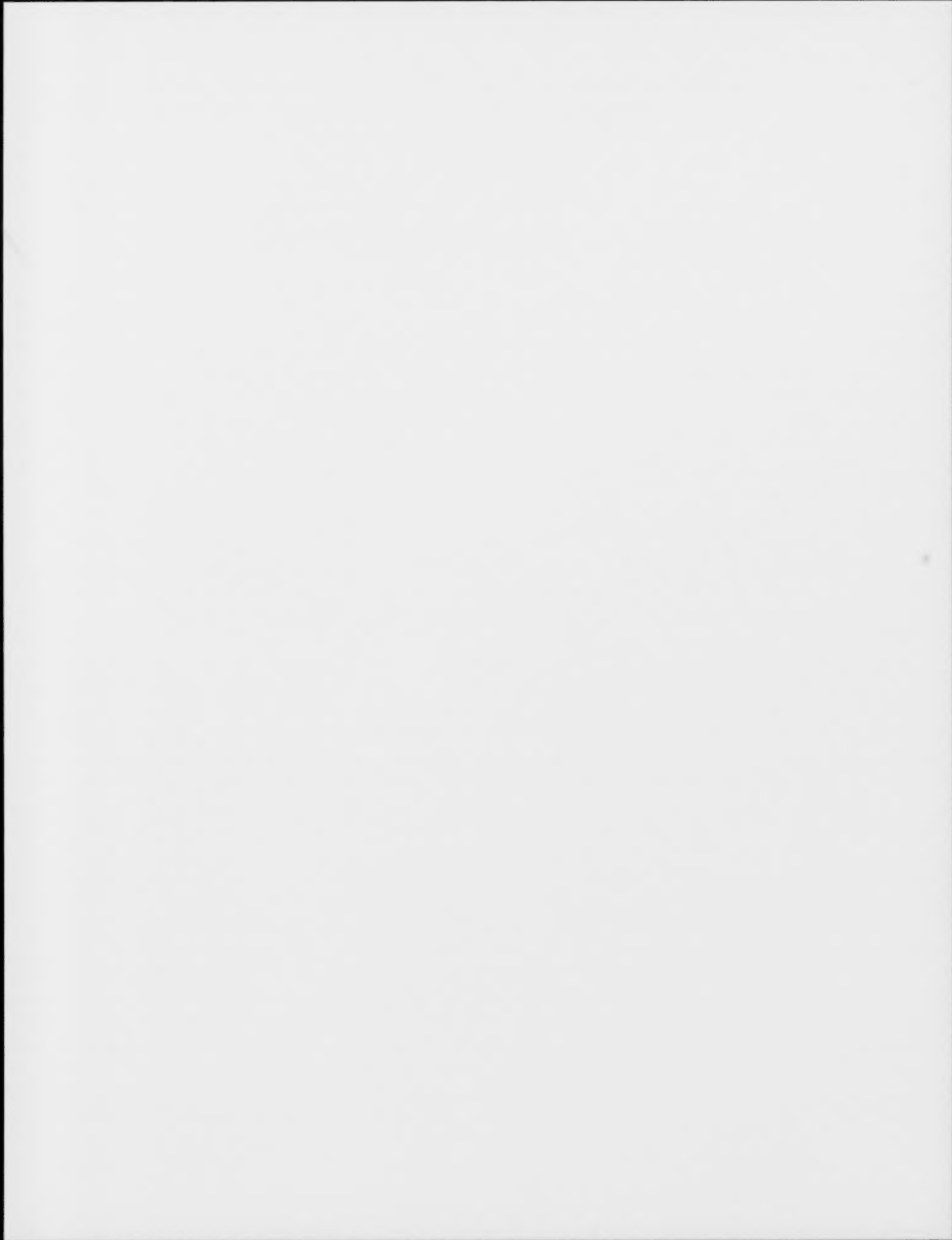
Six Members of the National Assembly were honoured on 30 November 2011, on the occasion of a ceremony underlining their anniversary of parliamentary life. They are the Member for Lavolette, Ms. Julie Boulet (10 years), the Member for Labelle, Mr. Sylvain Pagé (10 years), the Member for Saint-Maurice, Mr. Claude Pinard (15 years), the Member for Saint-Laurent, Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier (15 years), the Member for Charlevoix, Ms. Pauline Marois (25 years) and finally, the most-senior member of the National Assembly, the Member for Abitibi-Ouest, Mr. François Gendron (35 years). Several guests of honour attended this reception offered by the President of the National Assembly, which took place in the Legislative Council Chamber.

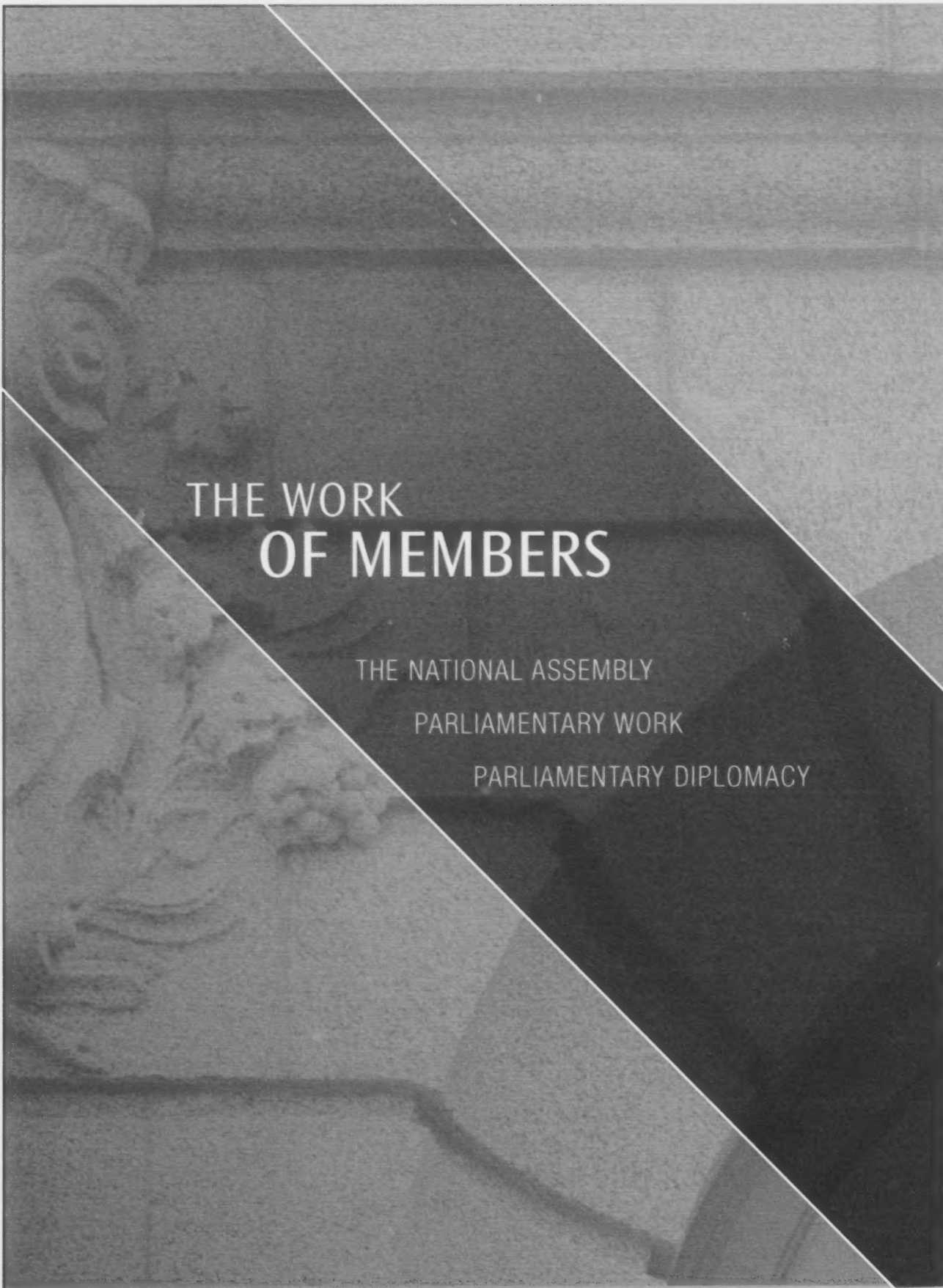


Messrs. Jacques Attali and Jacques Chagnon at the opening of the Symposium.

Symposium on Democracy, Parliamentarians and the Media

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building and of the 140th anniversary of the Press Gallery, the National Assembly hosted, in October 2011, the Symposium on Democracy, Parliamentarians and the Media. Seventeen speakers from Québec and abroad discussed these issues with some 400 participants hailing from various backgrounds. Students, professionals, parliamentarians and citizens focussed on three main themes: finding a balance between information and opinion, information control and the use of new technologies for the benefit of democracy. Author and professor Jacques Attali, who was special advisor to President François Mitterrand, and the former President of Mexico, Vicente Fox, respectively gave the opening address and the closing address of the symposium. A round table also provided an opportunity to three former journalists who are now Members of the National Assembly to share their experience and address certain problems relating to the current media and political contexts.





THE WORK OF MEMBERS

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mission

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec in each of the 125 electoral divisions. The responsibility for debating and passing bills and the budget lies with the Members. They also have the role of supervising the actions of the Government, particularly during Oral Questions and Answers and during consideration of the Government's estimates of expenditure. They also debate all matters of public interest, most notably in standing committees. The duration of the collective term of office of these Members, which is called a "legislature," is provided for in the Constitution and may not exceed five years.

The Three powers of the Québec State

LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER	JUDICIAL POWER
Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws. Supervises the actions of the executive branch. Discusses matters of public interest.	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State. Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative branch.	Interprets the laws passed by the legislative branch. Decides whether a citizen or a group has acted in accordance with the law.
Parliament	Government	Courts

The roles of Members: legislators, controllers and intermediaries

At the National Assembly, the main role of Members is to participate in the legislative process. As legislators, they study, analyze and vote on bills. They exercise this role in several stages in both the National Assembly and the standing committees.

Members also have several means for controlling the actions of the Government, including the opportunity to question Ministers on topics of current interest during Oral Questions and Answers and to examine the estimates of expenditure and the policy directions, activities and management of departments and agencies in committee. They have a notable role to play when standing committees hold public consultations on major issues of the day.

Lastly, Members play the role of intermediaries between citizens and the public administration. As representatives of the voters in their ridings, they defend their interests and explain their needs to the Government.



Resignation of the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières

On 1 April 2011, Mr. Yvon Vallières notified the Secretary General of the Assembly of his immediate resignation as President of the National Assembly, thus stepping down from the position he had held since 13 January 2009.



The unveiling of the photograph of the 44th President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, was held on 8 December 2011, in the main hall of the Parliament Building.

Election of the new President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon

On 5 April 2011, the parliamentarians elected the Member for Westmount – Saint-Louis, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, to the office of President of the National Assembly. Elected by secret ballot, Mr. Chagnon thus became the 45th President of the National Assembly of Québec. The Chair is the oldest and highest parliamentary function. In addition to ensuring the proper conduct of proceedings, the President chairs the meetings of the National Assembly and directs its services. He represents it in its relations with other parliaments and makes certain that the rights and privileges of all parliamentarians are respected. The election of Mr. Chagnon to the Chair left the office of Second Vice-President vacant, which position was filled with the election of the Member for Marquette, Mr. François Ouimet, on the same day.

Did you know?

The President represents the powers, offices and dignity of the National Assembly. If his office becomes vacant, the Assembly cannot carry out any other business before having elected a new President, despite the presence of three vice-presidents.

Changes in the composition of the Assembly

Resignations

Two Members resigned in 2011-2012:



Ms. Nathalie Normandeau
Bonaventure Electoral Division

First elected:
30 November 1998

Date of resignation:
6 September 2011

Office at time of resignation:
Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife and Deputy Premier



M. David Whissell
Argenteuil Electoral Division

First elected:
1 June 1998

Date of resignation:
16 December 2011

Office at time of resignation:
Member

By-elections

A by-election is held in an electoral division for the purpose of filling a vacancy arising from the resignation or death of a Member or further to a legal ruling. When a seat becomes vacant, a government order instituting the holding of an election must be forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer within six months of the first day of vacancy.



In accordance with a government order dated 2 November 2011, a by-election was held on 5 December 2011 in the electoral division of Bonaventure, at the outcome of which **Mr. Damien Arsenault** (QLP) was declared elected by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Changes of political affiliation

Fourteen Members changed political affiliation in 2011-2012:



Ms. Louise Beaudoin
Rosemont Electoral Division

First elected:
12 September 1994

Date of change of affiliation:
6 June 2011

Status:
From Parti québécois to independent



Mr. Pierre Curzi
Borduas Electoral Division

First elected:
26 March 2007

Date of change of affiliation:
6 June 2011

Status:
From Parti québécois to independent



Ms. Lisette Lapointe
Crémazie Electoral Division

First elected:
26 March 2007

Date of change of affiliation:
6 June 2011

Status:
From Parti québécois to independent



Mr. Jean-Martin Aussant
Nicolet-Yamaska Electoral Division

First elected:
8 December 2008

Date of change of affiliation:
7 June 2011

Status:
From Parti québécois to independent,
affiliated to Option nationale
since 8 November 2011



Mr. Benoit Charrette
Deux-Montagnes Electoral Division
First elected:
8 December 2008
Date of change of affiliation:
21 June 2011
Status:
From Parti québécois to independent (affiliated to Coalition avenir Québec since 29 December 2011)



Mr. René Gauvreau
Groulx Electoral Division
First elected:
8 December 2008
Date of change of affiliation:
21 June 2011
Status:
From Parti québécois to independent



Mr. Daniel Ratthé
Blainville Electoral Division
First elected:
8 December 2008
Date of change of affiliation:
25 November 2011
Status:
From Parti québécois to independent (affiliated to Coalition avenir Québec since 20 December 2011)



Mr. Éric Caire
La Peltrie Electoral Division
First elected:
26 March 2007
Date of change of affiliation:
20 December 2011
Status:
From independent to independent affiliated to Coalition avenir Québec



Mr. Marc Picard
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière Electoral Division
First elected:
14 April 2003
Date of change of affiliation:
20 December 2011
Status:
From independent to independent affiliated to Coalition avenir Québec



Mr. François Rebello
La Prairie Electoral Division
First elected:
8 December 2008
Date of change of affiliation:
10 January 2012
Status:
From independent to independent affiliated to Coalition avenir Québec



Mr. François Bonnardel
Shefford Electoral Division
First elected:
26 March 2007
Date of change of affiliation:
14 February 2012
Status:
From independent to independent affiliated to Coalition avenir Québec



Mr. Gérard Deltell
Chauveau Electoral Division
First elected:
8 December 2008
Date of change of affiliation:
14 February 2012
Status:
From independent to independent affiliated to Coalition avenir Québec



Mr. Janvier Grondin
Beauce-Nord Electoral Division
First elected:
14 April 2003
Date of change of affiliation:
14 February 2012
Status:
From independent to independent affiliated to Coalition avenir Québec



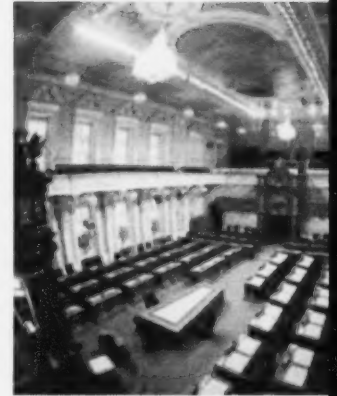
Ms. Sylvie Roy
Lotbinière Electoral Division
First elected:
14 April 2003
Date of change of affiliation:
14 February 2012
Status:
From independent to independent affiliated to Coalition avenir Québec

Rulings from the Chair

Parliamentary convention

In May 2011, the Chair gave a ruling introducing a new concept of parliamentary law, the parliamentary convention. Noting that the Members, by making several statements and, more particularly, by unanimously carrying a motion, had agreed that a broad consensus was required to modify the electoral map, the Chair concluded that it was under the obligation to respect this wish.

Hence, based on the notion of constitutional convention, the Chair ruled that so long as Members felt bound by this obligation, the passage of a bill to amend the electoral boundaries would be conditional on obtaining a broad consensus. Without interfering with the legislative process where the Assembly is sovereign, the Chair further reiterated that it hoped that Members would work in close collaboration to preserve the legitimacy of the procedure to amend the electoral map.



Questions of privilege concerning persons other than Members

Questions of privileges concerning persons other than Members are quite rare at the Assembly. In October 2011, the Chair of the Assembly was called upon to rule on such a matter. This matter involved the chair of the board of directors of a public agency who had failed to comply with an order to appear before a standing committee.

On this occasion, the Chair recalled that, just as the judicial branch of the State, the legislative branch, or Parliament, must be respected if it is to efficiently carry out its role. This is why an order to appear before the Assembly is not less serious than an order to appear before a court. The Chair further specified that its foremost duty is to ensure that the rights and privileges of the Assembly and of its Members are respected. It also reminded the heads and administrators of public agencies that it is incumbent upon them to collaborate with the Assembly and that they are accountable thereto.

In conclusion, the Chair hoped that this ruling would serve as a warning to any person who deliberately failed to comply with an order to appear before a standing committee.

Changes in the composition of the Assembly

The Assembly currently has 16 independent Members, which is the largest number in its history. This situation arises from the changes in affiliation of several Members. Owing to the various changes that took place in the composition of the Assembly in 2011-2012, the Chair was called upon to give several rulings concerning the status of certain Members who had changed affiliation and the distribution of control measures and speaking times for the parliamentary debates.

Status of Members

Basing its decision on parliamentary jurisprudence in similar cases, and in order to ensure uniformity when identifying Members and to acknowledge all political affiliations present, the Chair allowed the new independent Members to be associated with the political party they had joined, both in the *Journal des débats* and on the Assembly channel and website. The Chair specified that this identification in no way modified the rights enjoyed by the independent Members within the framework of parliamentary deliberations. It also underlined that the purpose of this ruling was to enable citizens to have the most accurate picture of the political reality of the Assembly Members.

Distribution of measures and speaking times

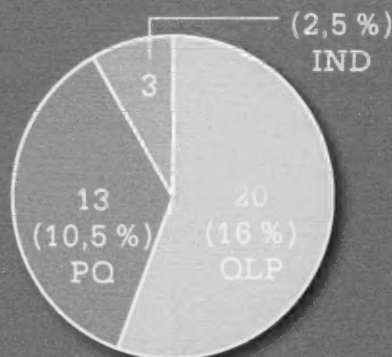
In September 2011 and in February 2012, the Chair gave two rulings modifying the distribution of measures and speaking times. Within this context, it was called upon to find a new method of distributing measures among the independent Members (ex.: number and rank of questions during oral questions and answers, business standing in the name of Members in opposition, interpellations and statements by Members). To ensure a fair and objective distribution as well as the predictability of the moment when an independent Member will be exercising his right, the Chair innovated by establishing a random draw procedure. This new approach is inspired by the practice observed in other British-style parliaments.

Distribution of seats in the National Assembly

As at 31 March 2012, the 125 seats were distributed as follows:

POLITICAL PARTY	PARLIAMENTARY GROUP REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
Québec Liberal Party (QLP)	Parliamentary group forming the Government	64
Parti québécois (PQ)	Parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition	44
Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ)	Independents	9
Option nationale (ON)		1
Québec solidaire (QS)		1
Independents		5
Vacant		1

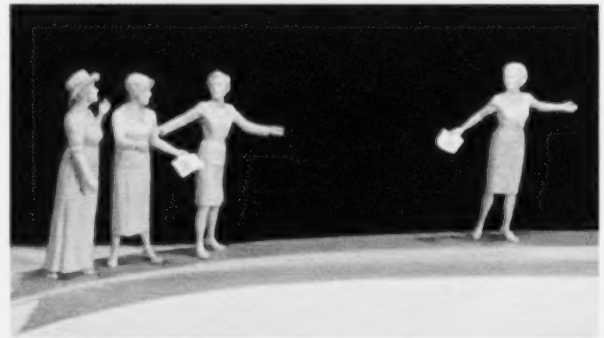
In the National Assembly, women occupy **29 %** of the seats



Eleven women are Cabinet Ministers, making up **40.7 %** of the Executive.

Monument in tribute to women in politics

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Québec women's right to vote and eligibility, in spring 2010, the National Assembly launched a call for concepts to erect a monument as a tribute to women in politics. In December 2011, for the 50th anniversary of the election of the first woman Member of the National Assembly, Ms. Marie Claire Kirkland, the Assembly unveiled the name of the sculptor commissioned to build the monument and the maquette of his work. The monument will be erected in autumn 2012 on Grande-Allée in Québec City, along the south façade of the Parliament Building. This project is made possible through a partnership between the National Assembly, the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec, the Ville de Québec and the Conseil du statut de la femme.



Maquette of the monument in tribute to women in politics. Left to right: Idola Saint-Jean, Marie Lacoste Gérin-Lajoie, Thérèse Forget Casgrain and Marie-Claire Kirkland.

The anniversaries of parliamentary life

On 30 November 2011, six Members of the National Assembly were honoured on the occasion of a ceremony underlining their anniversary of parliamentary life (10, 15, 25 and 35 years). Several guests of honour attended this ceremony offered by the President of the National Assembly, which took place in the Legislative Council Chamber.

List of Members honoured



Mr. François Gendron
Abitibi-Ouest Electoral Division

Number of years of parliamentary life:
35 years



Ms. Pauline Marois
Charlevoix Electoral Division

Number of years of parliamentary life:
25 years



Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier
Saint-Laurent Electoral Division

Number of years of parliamentary life:
15 years



Mr. Claude Pinard
Saint-Maurice Electoral Division

Number of years of parliamentary life:
15 years



Mr. Sylvain Pagé
Labelle Electoral Division

Number of years of parliamentary life:
10 years



Ms. Julie Boulet
Lavolette Electoral Division

Number of years of parliamentary life:
10 years



JEAN CHARST
Premier
Sherbrooke

MEMBERS OF THE 39TH LEGISLATURE AS AT 31 MARCH 2012



JEAN MARC FORTIN
Suroccupé
House Leader
Saint-Louis



ROBERT DUFRESNE
Député Gouvernement
House Leader
Brossard



RENÉ FAURIOL
Député Gouvernement
House Leader
Trois-Rivières



LUCIE CHARBONNEAU
Chef Gouvernement
House Leader
Longueuil



VINCENT ALCARAZ
Député Gouvernement
House Leader
Montréal



DANIELLE ST-AMAND
Député Gouvernement
House Leader
Saint-Jean



LAWRENCE S. LEBLANC
Chef du Bloc
House Leader
Trois-Rivières



PIERRE ARCANDE
Montréal



JEAN N. BOUCHARD
Brossard



CLÉMENT BOUCHARD
Trois-Rivières



ANTHONY BOUCHARD
Trois-Rivières



YVELINE ALLARD
Trois-Rivières



DANIEL ST-ONGE
Trois-Rivières



RAYMOND ST-ONGE
Trois-Rivières



STÉPHANE BÉDARD
Trois-Rivières



MARCEL ST-ONGE
Trois-Rivières



YVES BOUCHARD
Trois-Rivières



JEAN BOUCHARD
Trois-Rivières



MARC BOUCHARD
Trois-Rivières



FREDÉRIC CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



CLÉMENT CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



MICHELLE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



JEAN CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



JEAN PAUL CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



ANDRÉ CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



EMMANUEL CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



MONIQUE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



NANCY CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



CLÉMENT CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



JEAN CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



SAM CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



PATRICK CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



YVELINE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



LA CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



CLÉMENT CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



LAURENT CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



NORMAN CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



CLÉMENT CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



YVELINE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



MICHEL CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



NICOLE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



MONIQUE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



GUY CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



ALAIN CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



MICHEL CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



ÉLODIE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



NICOLE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



GUY CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



CLÉMENT CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



LAURENT CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



YVELINE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



YVELINE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



DOMINIQUE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



KATHLEEN CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières



YVELINE CHARBONNEAU
Trois-Rivières





JACQUES DUCHARME
Président
Renouveau / Parti libéral



PATRICIA HURD-PÉPIN
Première Vice-Présidente
Libéraux



FRANÇOIS GAUTHIER
Deuxième Vice-Président
Renouveau



FRANÇOIS GENDRON
Troisième Vice-Président
Action-Québec



PAULINE MAROIS
Leader of the Official Opposition
Choréistes

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS



JEAN MARTEL ATTALIAN
Nouveau Parti libéral

LOUISE DE ALONSO
Renouveau

EDMOND BERNARDINI
Libéraux

ÉRIC LABÉ
La Voie

DE NOTO CHARLÈTE
Groupement libéral

PIERRE CLUZET
Libéraux

GERARD DUBÉ
Choréistes

RENE GAGNEAU
Libéraux

JANVIER GAGNON
Renouveau

ANDRÉ GAGNON
Libéraux

ÉRIC LAFORTUNE
Libéraux

MAURICE PÉCARD
Choréistes de la Chaudière

CHARLES BOUTIN
Libéraux

FRANÇOIS BOUTIN
La Voie

YVES BOW
Libéraux

EDYTH BOUARD
Libéraux





-  Vice President
 Premier
 Government House Leader
 Chief Government Whip
 Ministers

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

Schedule of sittings

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a parliamentary work calendar divided into two sessional periods during which the Assembly meets: one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring sessional period runs from the second Tuesday in February, with 16 weeks of ordinary hours of meeting followed by two weeks of extended hours of meeting. The fall sessional period runs from the third Tuesday in September, with 10 weeks of ordinary hours of meeting followed by two weeks of extended hours of meeting. A total of five weeks is set aside for work in the electoral districts.

The following table shows the schedule of National Assembly by time of year:

Period	Day	Time Routine Proceedings	Time Orders of the Day
During ordinary hours of meeting*	Tuesday	1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.	3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
During extended hours of meeting*	Tuesday	1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m.	3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Thursday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
	Friday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

* The National Assembly may sit on Mondays on motion by the Government House Leader.

Outside the periods provided for in the Standing Orders, the Assembly holds extraordinary sittings at the request of the Premier. This request is made to the President or, in the President's absence, to the Secretary General. Standing committees may sit at any time during the year, from Monday to Friday, at the times set in the Standing Orders. The Assembly and committees may not sit during weeks set aside for work in electoral districts. No extraordinary sittings were held in 2011-2012.

Work performed at the National Assembly

Sittings of the National Assembly and standing committees

In 2011-2012, 79 sittings were held at the National Assembly and 572 in standing committee. The table below provides a breakdown:

	ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	Sittings	Hours	Sittings	Hours
April	9	21 hr. 31 min.	56	220 hr. 56 min.
May	13	59 hr. 45 min.	82	216 hr. 03 min.
June	7	21 hr. 48 min.	38	112 hr. 05 min.
July	0	0	1	1 hr. 32 min.
August	0	0	24	103 hr. 23 min.
September	6	31 hr. 30	61	180 hr. 53 min.
October	9	32 hr. 40	56	144 hr. 29 min.
November	14	47 hr. 56	98	276 hr. 03 min.
December	6	16 hr. 58	32	74 hr. 33 min.
January	0	0	16	74 hr. 39 min.
February	8	30 hr. 11	76	183 hr. 01 min.
March	7	30 hr. 48	32	80 hr. 59 min.
TOTAL	79	293 hr. 07	572	1668 hr. 36 min.

Did you know?

The Service aux courriéristes parlementaires provides the Press Gallery journalists with documentation, information, research, messenger, telephone services as well as liaising with the various groups and stakeholders that revolve around the institution, namely the parliamentary wings, the elected officials and the Government actors. The Service provides the media with a daily schedule of the activities at the National Assembly and offers a temporary accreditation service for the media who are not members of the Press Gallery.

Conduct of a sitting at the National Assembly

An Assembly sitting consists of two distinct periods: Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	ORDERS OF THE DAY
Routine Proceedings are divided into 11 items of business devoted to information provided by the Government to the National Assembly. The items of business under Routine Proceedings are considered in the following order: 0.1 Statements by Members 1. Statements by Ministers 2. Introduction of bills 3. Tablings 3.1 Oral Answers to Petitions 4. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations 5. Oral Questions and Answers 6. Deferred Divisions 7. Motions Without Notice 8. Notices of Proceedings in Committees 9. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly	Orders of the Day are devoted mainly to debates on bills at any stage of consideration. At this time, the National Assembly also takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate. The five items of business for this period are considered in the following order: 1. Business Having Precedence 2. Urgent Debates 3. Debates on Reports from Committees 4. Other Business Standing on the Order Paper 5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition



Publication of the 3rd edition of *La procédure parlementaire du Québec*

On 28 February 2012, the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, launched the third edition of the book *La procédure parlementaire du Québec*. This edition contains six new chapters, including one that retraces the history of the political and parliamentary institutions of Québec since New France. It also makes reference to two events which led to major changes in the organization and operation of the Assembly and its committees: the election, in 2007, of the first minority government in the modern history of Québec, including the presence of a third parliamentary group, and the adoption, in April 2009, of an important reform of the Standing Orders and Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings in the National Assembly.

A closer look at Routine Proceedings

Statements by Members

This item of business, which signals the beginning of a sitting, is an opportunity for Members, including ministers, to make a one-minute statement on a matter close to their heart. Up to ten Members may make a statement per sitting.

Statements by Ministers

Ministers may make statements to the Assembly on any subject they deem appropriate, such as the announcement of a government policy or the Government's reaction to a particular event. There were no statements by Ministers in 2011-2012.

Introduction of Bills

Bills may be introduced during Routine Proceedings. Members do not discuss the content at this point; they simply allow bills to be submitted for consideration during subsequent stages of the legislative process. In all, 65 bills were introduced in the National Assembly in 2011-2012.

Presenting Papers

Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012, 1038 papers were tabled in the National Assembly. Of this number, there were:

- Reports from the Law Clerk (8, or 0.8 %)
- Annual reports of departments and agencies (255, or 24.6 %)
- Replies to written questions placed on the Order Paper (11, or 1.1 %)
- Government replies to petitions (119, or 11.5 %)
- Decisions from the Office of the Assembly (53, or 5.1 %)
- Report on a mission (1)
- Committee reports (109, or 10.5 %)
- Petitions (188, or 18.1 %)
- Other documents (294, or 28.3 %)

Presenting Petitions

The right of citizens to present a petition to the National Assembly is a fundamental right that is codified in the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. Therefore, any Québec resident may address a petition to the National Assembly through a Member. The petition may be started by a person or an association of persons, and may be signed on paper or on-line. In the latter case, the petition

must be launched and signed on the website of the National Assembly. A petition must be drafted in temperate, respectful language. It must also comply with the following general rules:

- asks for the redress of a grievance that falls within the competence of the State;
- does not exceed 250 words, including a clear and accurate statement of the facts and a request for action;
- does not deal with a subject that is before a court or a quasi-judicial body or under investigation;
- does not use language that is forbidden or considered unparliamentary under Standing Order 35 of the National Assembly;
- contains the intervention sought on every sheet that bears signatures;
- contains the handwritten signature of all the petitioners and, if any, the group to which they belong.

In 2011-2012, 188 petitions were presented in the National Assembly, including 121 paper petitions and 67 electronic petitions. The Government tabled 119 answers for 200 petitions. It must answer all petitions in writing within thirty days and may give one answer for several petitions having the same wording.

The originator of a petition is responsible for asking a Member to present it. Any Member may present a petition except the President. However, Cabinet Members generally refrain from presenting petitions. The Member need not endorse the content of a petition to present it in the House.

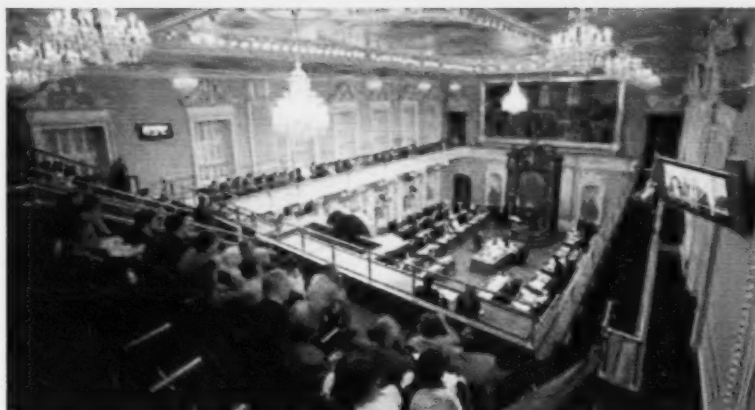
Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

A Member may call attention to any breach of the privileges or immunities of the Assembly or of its Members. With the permission of the President of the Assembly, a Member may also explain a matter that concerns him or her. For instance, a Member may wish to clarify the written record of one of his or her speeches, refute allegations made in a publication or remarks that have been misinterpreted. Two complaints of breach of privilege or contempt and one matter of personal explanations were raised in 2011-2012.

Did you know?

Any Member who is of the opinion that a matter he has raised during oral question period has not been sufficiently discussed may debate it further upon adjournment. He must give notice to the President, not later than thirty minutes after the conclusion of oral question period, of the matter he wishes to debate.

In 2011-2012,
6,754 persons
attended
Question
Period and
7,555 persons
took part in
the standing
committee
sittings.



Oral Questions and Answers

Members have several means for controlling the actions of Government. Oral Questions and Answers is without doubt the most familiar item of business to citizens, owing to its media coverage. During this 45-minute period, Members can question Ministers on current matters of public interest that fall within their or the Government's purview.

Close to 55 hours were devoted to Oral Questions and Answers.

The number of questions asked can be broken down as follows:

main questions: **687** (average of 8.7 main questions per sitting)

supplementary questions: **1124** (average of 14.2 supplementary questions per sitting)

Deferred Divisions

Votes are taken in the Assembly either by a show of hands or by recorded division. The President may, at the request of the Government House Leader, defer any division until later on the same sitting day. He may likewise defer such division until the Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day thereafter. In 2011-2012, 10 deferred divisions were held.

Motions Without Notice

This stage of Routine Proceedings is set aside expressly to allow Members to discuss motions that have not first been placed on the Order Paper and Notices. Any Member may move a motion. A parliamentary group may not move more than one motion without notice per sitting, while an independent Member may move one motion per three sittings.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

This item of business enables the Government House Leader to provide the Assembly with the following details on the proceedings being held in committee in pursuance of an order of the Assembly:

- Name of the committee
- Date, hour and place of meeting
- Purpose of the sitting.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

The last heading under Routine Proceedings allows the Government House Leader, on his own initiative or at the invitation of a Member, to communicate to the Assembly any information on the proceedings of the Assembly. Requests for information must solely concern items of business placed on the Order Paper and Notices. At this stage, the President may also be called upon to give the Assembly information regarding its proceedings.

A closer look at Orders of the Day

Business Having Precedence

As the name indicates, this business takes precedence over all other matters due to its importance or urgency. The opening speech of the session, delivered by the Premier, and the speeches by the leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives during the subsequent debate rank first among business having precedence. Other business having precedence includes the budget speech and want of confidence motions.

Urgent Debates

In pursuance of Standing Orders 88 and following, any Member may ask leave to debate a definite and important matter involving the responsibility of the Assembly that requires urgent consideration and cannot be, or could not have been, otherwise discussed. The Member in asking leave may briefly state the arguments in its favour. The President decides, without debate, whether or not the matter is proper to be discussed. If leave is granted, a two-hour limited debate shall arise on the matter submitted. The debate shall expire without question put.

In 2011-2012, two want of confidence motions were placed on the Order Paper and Notices: the Member for Gouin, Mr. Nicolas Girard, gave notice of a motion concerning the allocation of child care spaces. The Member for Mercier, Mr. Amir Khadir, for his part, gave notice of a motion concerning access to education and the right to education. Both motions were debated and negatived on a recorded division.

During 2011-2012, two urgent debates were requested. On 20 September 2011, the Member for Mercier, Mr. Amir Khadir, handed in a request on the following subject: the major confidence crisis of our public institutions created by the facts uncovered in the Anti-Collusion Unit report. This request was deemed out of order. Lastly, on 22 November 2011, the Member for Joliette, Ms. Véronique Hivon, handed in a request on the following subject: the imminent passage of Federal Bill C-10. This request was deemed in order and gave rise to a two-hour limited debate.

Debates on Reports from Committees

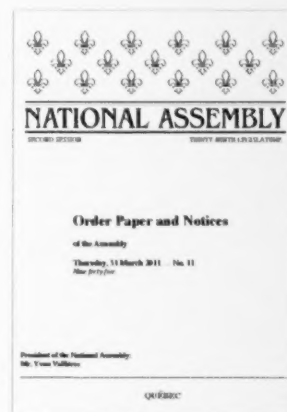
Committee reports that contain recommendations are entered on the Order Paper and Notices the day after they are tabled in the National Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days. In 2011-2012, eight debates on committee reports containing recommendations were held.

Other Business Standing on the Order Paper

At this time, the National Assembly goes through the various stages of studying bills, notably passage in principle, consideration of reports from committees that have examined bills and the passage of bills.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

In 2011-2012, 17 motions were placed on the Order Paper under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition. It should be noted that 14 of these were by Official Opposition Members, all were voted by recorded division, and 3 motions were carried. Of the 17 motions, 3 were in the name of independent Members, 2 were voted by recorded division and all were negatived.



Did you know?

The Order Paper and Notices lists the business that the Assembly is likely to address in a sitting. This important document allows Members to prepare their interventions. This publication includes other pertinent information for the Members, for example, a list of all the mandates currently before the Assembly and the titles of the bills for which notice has been given but that have not yet been introduced. The Order Paper and Notices is published in French and in English, in paper and in electronic format, and is posted online at 8:00 a.m. every day the Assembly sits.

BILLS PASSED	
From 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, the National Assembly passed 43 bills:	
Government bills:	37 (including 27 (73 %) passed unanimously)
Private Members' public bills:	0
Private bills:	6 (including 5 (83 %) passed unanimously)

Stages in the consideration of a public bill

- 1. Introduction:** The bill's sponsor (Member or minister) presents it to the Assembly for consideration. The bill can usually be consulted online in the list of bills under consideration within one hour of its introduction.
- 2. Referral for consultation:** This optional stage allows Members to learn the needs and opinions of the persons or bodies affected by a bill. To this end, the Government House Leader moves that the bill be referred to a committee for consultation.
- 3. Passage in principle:** At this stage, Members debate the spirit and principle of the bill before the Assembly.
- 4. Committee stage:** The bill is studied in a standing committee or in a committee of the whole (which includes all 125 Members of the Assembly). The committee is chosen according to its areas of competence; its members examine each of the sections of the bill.
- 5. Report stage:** The Assembly votes on the committee's report, which must be adopted for the process to continue.
- 6. Passage:** This is the final stage before a bill is given assent.

The bill can be amended in stages 4, 5 and 6; its sponsor (Member or minister) or another Member may propose amendments to the bill. However, in the final stage (passage), only the bill's sponsor can propose amendments. All of the stages normally take place in separate sittings of the Assembly.

Lastly, after a bill is passed, it is given assent by the Lieutenant-Governor and becomes a law. The law may take effect the same day it is assented to or on another date mentioned in the bill or to be set by the Government.

The translation of Acts

Section 133 of the Constitutional Act, 1867, and section 7 of the Charter of the French Language provide for the obligation to print and publish bills in French and in English. All bills are therefore translated from French to English before they are introduced in the National Assembly, as are the amendments adopted subsequently in the standing committees and in the House. The translation of bills and amendments is vital to the legislative work of the Assembly and allows the citizens of Québec and Internet users from around the world to acquaint themselves with Québec's laws.

Standing committees

A considerable portion of parliamentary work is carried out in standing committees, where Members exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of the Government's actions. These committees bring together a dozen or so Members of the various political parties that make up the National Assembly and are responsible for examining any matter under their authority. In committee, the public can express its views during public consultations on bills or important societal issues. In committee, Members also closely examine bills and the government's estimates of expenditure, as well as monitor the activities of departments and government agencies. Furthermore, on their own initiative, they may elect to investigate any other matter under their authority.



Schedule of standing committee sittings

DATE	DAY	TIME
Outside National Assembly hours of meeting	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday to Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
During ordinary hours of meeting*	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. After Routine Proceedings to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	After Routine Proceedings to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
During extended hours of meeting*	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. After Routine Proceedings to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	After Routine Proceedings to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
	Friday	After Routine Proceedings to 1 p.m.

* Committees may not sit during Routine Proceedings.

Committee chair

The committee chair is a Member of a parliamentary group and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He organizes and chairs the proceedings of the committee, takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Did you know?

There are eleven permanent standing committees, nine of which are sector-based. Six committees are chaired by a Member from the group forming the Government and three committees, by Members from the group forming the Official Opposition. A Member of the Official Opposition chairs the Committee on Public Administration, and the President of the National Assembly chairs the Committee on the National Assembly.

Committee vice-chair

The committee vice-chair is a Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chair and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He assists the chair in his duties and replaces him when necessary.

In pursuance of Standing Order 127, not later than the third day on which the Assembly meets after the election of the President at the opening of a Legislature, and from time to time thereafter as the necessity may arise, the Committee on the National Assembly must meet to select the Members to serve on the standing committees and to name the date on which they are first to meet. Thus, most of the current chairs and vice-chairs of the standing committees were elected by the Members of each committee during elections held in February 2011.

Terms of reference and composition of the standing committees

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Areas of competence: Standing Orders and Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings, coordination of the proceedings of the other committees. Members as at 31 March 2012:

The President of the National Assembly:	Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount-Saint-Louis)
The Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly:	Ms. Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette) Mr. François Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest)
House leaders of the parliamentary groups:	Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier (Saint-Laurent) Mr. Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)
Whips of the parliamentary groups:	Ms. Lucie Charlebois (Soulanges) Ms. Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles)
Committee chairs:	Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) Ms. Danielle Doyer (Matapédia) Mr. Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) Ms. Marie Malavoy (Taillon) Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey) Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) Mr. Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Areas of competence: Examination of financial commitments, accountability and the Auditor General.
Members as at 31 March 2012:

Chair:	Mr. Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil) QLP
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage)	Mr. Pascal Bérubé (Matane)
Mr. Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun)	Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier)	Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)
Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf)	
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)	

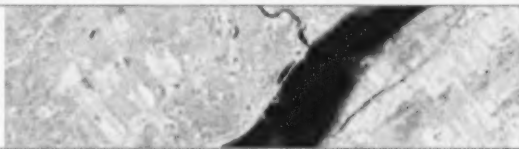
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Areas of competence: agriculture, fisheries, food, energy and natural resources. Members as at 31 March 2012:

Chair:	Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice) PQ
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Mr. Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue)	Ms. Martine Ouellet (Vachon)
Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup)	Mr. André Simard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata)
Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)	Mr. Denis Irottier (Roberval)
Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)	
Mr. Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé)	

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN



Areas of competence: Land use planning and development, municipal affairs, housing, sports and recreation, local and regional community development. Members as at 31 March 2012:

Chair:	Ms. Marie Malavoy (Taillon) PQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet) QLP
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Mr. Damien Arseneault (Bonaventure)	Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau)	Mr. Guillaume Tremblay (Masson)
Mr. Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé)	Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier)
Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton)	
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger)	

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION



Areas of competence: culture, education, vocational training, higher education and communications.
Members as at 31 March 2012:

Chair:	Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Yves-François Blanchet (Drummond) PQ
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)	Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière)
Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)	Mr. Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)
Mr. Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)	Mr. Gilles Robert (Prévost)
Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)	
Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)	

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY



Areas of competence: industry, trade, tourism, labour, manpower, science, technology and income security.
Members as at 31 March 2012:

Chair:	Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères) PQ
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska)	Mr. Pascal Bérubé (Matane)
Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup)	Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)
Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage)	Mr. Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)
Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)	
Mr. Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé)	

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE



Areas of competence: Finance, budget, government administration, public service, revenue, services, supply and pension plans. *Members as at 31 March 2012:*

Chair:	Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) QLP
Vice-chair:	Ms. Agnès Maltais (Taschereau) PQ
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Mr. Vincent Auclair (Vimont)	Mr. Luc Ferland (Ungava)
Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)	Mr. Nicolas Marceau (Rousseau)
Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)	Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)
Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau)	
Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg (Vilau)	

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS



Areas of competence: Chairmanship of the Conseil exécutif, justice, public security, the Constitution, aboriginal affairs, international and intergovernmental relations. Members as at 31 March 2012:

Chair:	Mr. Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) PQ
Vice-chair:	Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau) QLP
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Mr. Vincent Auclair (Vimont)	Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)
Mr. Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue)	Ms. Alexandre Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean)
Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)	Ms. Véronique Hivon (Joliette)
Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf)	
Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)	

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS



Areas of competence: Citizen relations, cultural communities, immigration, status of women, family, seniors, youth and consumer protection. Members as at 31 March 2012:

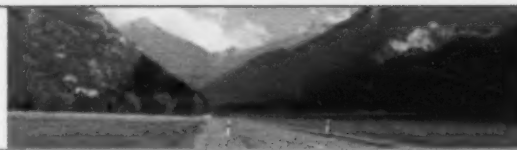
Chair:	Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Claude Cousineau (Bertrand) PQ
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Mr. Damien Arsenault (Bonaventure)	Mr. Yves-François Blanchet (Drummond)
Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau)	Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville)
Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis)	Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois)
Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)	
Mr. Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg)	

COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Areas of competence: health, social and community services. Members as at 31 March 2012:

Chair:	Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque) PQ
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)	Mr. Émilien Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)	Ms. Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)
Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull)	Mr. Mathieu Traversy (Terrebonne)
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger)	
Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)	

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Areas of competence: transports, environment, wildlife and parks. Members as at 31 March 2012:

Chair:	Ms. Danielle Doyer (Matapédia) PQ
Vice-chair:	Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) QLP
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)	Mr. Étienne-Alexis Boucher (Johnson)
Mr. Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé)	Mr. Nicolas Girard (Gouin)
Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier)	Mr. Scott McKay (L'Assomption)
Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)	
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)	

SELECT COMMITTEE ON DYING WITH DIGNITY



Area of competence: examine the issue of dying with dignity. This committee was created by a motion carried by the National Assembly on 4 December 2009. Members as at 22 March 2012 (date on which the report was tabled):

Chair:	Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull) PQ
Vice-chair:	Ms. Véronique Hivon (Joliette) QLP
Members:	
QLP	PQ
Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles)	Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)	Ms. Monique Richard (Marguerite-D Youville)
Mr. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)	
Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)	Independents
Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger)	Mr. Benoit Charrette (Deux-Montagnes)
Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)	Mr. Amir Khadir (Mercier)
Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau)	

Did you know?

Excluding the Select Committee on Dying With Dignity, only four other select committees were established by the National Assembly since the adoption of the current Standing Orders, in 1984. They are the Select Committee on Vocational Training (1995), the Select Committee on a New Management Framework for Government Administration (1999), the Select Committee on the Future Site of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (2005) and the Select Committee on the Election Act (2005).

Select Committee on Dying With Dignity

Since the National Assembly carried the motion to create a select committee for the purpose of examining the issue of dying with dignity (SCDD) in December 2009, this committee's proceedings spanned two parliamentary sessions and more than two years. Last year, the members of the SCDD focussed on drafting a report that contains 24 unanimous recommendations.

Initially, various proceedings were carried out within the framework of this mandate to allow the members to hear the various points of view, both from experts on the topic as well as from the citizens. These proceedings provided the Committee members with food for thought before drafting their report.

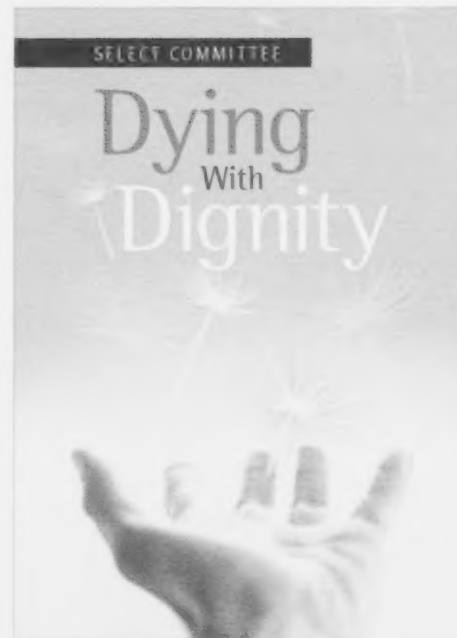
Prior to the proceedings of the Select Committee, in February and in March 2010, the Committee on Health and Social Services (CHSS) heard experts during public hearings in order to get a clear picture of the stakes involved regarding this matter. In May 2010, the same Committee published a discussion paper to facilitate citizen participation in the travelling general consultation and in the online consultation.

From September 2010 to March 2011, the Select Committee held public hearings within the framework of its general consultation. In summary there were:

- 29 days of hearings in 8 cities of Québec province (Québec City, Montréal, Trois-Rivières, Saguenay, Rimouski, Sherbrooke, Gatineau and Saint-Jérôme);
- Over 300 briefs received;
- Close to 6,600 answers to the online questionnaire;
- 114 persons who expressed their opinion during the open-mike sessions held for the public during the public hearings.

It should also be noted that Internet users were able to post their comments on the Assembly's website until the day the report was tabled and that 16,000 comments were received.

At the end of June 2011, a small delegation of Committee members travelled to Europe to gather information on the status of the public debate on this issue. During their 10-day mission, the members had the opportunity to share information with parliamentarians from France, the Netherlands and Belgium.



Tabling of the report from the Select Committee on Dying With Dignity

The Select Committee on Dying with Dignity held several deliberative meetings to examine all of the arguments and issues raised. On 22 March 2012, it tabled in the National Assembly a report containing 24 unanimous recommendations on this matter.



The members of the Committee at the tabling of the report.

The members also noted that palliative care is the ideal path to follow in relieving the suffering of the majority of persons at the end of life. They particularly proposed that this type of care be officially recognized by law and that access thereto be a priority, but also that it be applied to homecare. However, being convinced that even the best palliative care has its limits, the Committee members recommended

medical aid in dying as an additional option in the continuum of appropriate end-of-life care for exceptional cases in which persons who meet strict criteria expressly request it.

The first part of this report concerns end-of-life care and issues surrounding refusal or withdrawal of treatment, palliative care, palliative sedation and planning of end-of-life care in the event of incapacity. The second part of the report presents the results of the Committee members' reflections on euthanasia, including the arguments for and against this practice. A closer look is also taken at the control measures that should be included in the law so that medical aid in dying is permitted only in cases expressly provided for. The complete report is available on request and on the website of the Assembly at the following address: assnat.qc.ca.

The orders of the standing committees

The sector-based standing committees may carry out three types of mandates: orders of reference, statutory orders and orders of initiative.

Orders of reference

Clause-by-clause consideration of bills

The standing committees examined 42 bills 42 of which a complete list may be consulted in the appendix. For all bills submitted for consideration by the standing committees, 2,709 sections were examined and 1,017 amendments were adopted out of the 1,337 amendments introduced.

Did you know?

At the request of the National Assembly, the committees examine bills, the estimates of expenditure and any other matter that may be referred to them. These are known as "orders of reference".

GENERAL CONSULTATION

General consultations are open to the population at large. They must be preceded by a public notice published in selected newspapers and in the *Québec Official Gazette*, inviting any individuals and organizations interested in the matter under consideration to submit a brief to the committee. Citizens may also send a request to be heard without submitting a brief. Public hearings are then held before the committee, with a period not exceeding 45 minutes set aside for all requests without a brief to be heard.

SPECIAL CONSULTATIONS

Special consultations are limited to individuals and organizations chosen by the committee or by the Assembly owing to their knowledge or expertise regarding the matter under consideration.

Public hearings

In 2011-2012, 539 groups and individuals came before the committees to voice their opinions on various matters within the framework of general and special consultations. The standing committees received 705 briefs. These consultations enabled the parliamentarians to properly assess the issues arising from matters under consideration.

For instance, the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain was directed to hold a general consultation on the draft bill entitled Sustainable Regional and Local Land Use Planning Act. The purpose of this draft bill was to repeal the Act respecting land use planning and development to enact a new more complete Act as regards sustainable regional and local land use planning. It confirmed the legal responsibilities of the Government, the metropolitan communities, the regional county municipalities and the local municipalities with regard to land use planning and development. During this general consultation, the Committee received 73 briefs, heard three requests without a brief and held 10 days of hearings in the months of May, August and September 2011. Furthermore, 44 comments were posted on the website of the Assembly. In December 2011, following this consultation, the bill entitled Sustainable Regional and Local Land Use Planning Act was introduced in the National Assembly.

The members of the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain in the Legislative Council Chamber during the general consultation on the draft bill entitled «Sustainable Regional and Local Land Use Planning Act».





The members of the Committee on Institutions in the Legislative Council Chamber during the general consultation on the Draft Bill to enact the new Code of Civil Procedure.

On 4 October 2011, the Commission on Institutions was directed to hold a general consultation on the draft bill to enact the new Code of Civil Procedure. The main objectives of this draft bill were to streamline and modernize civil procedure so as to ensure notably the accessibility, quality and promptness of civil justice. The seven days of public hearings held by the Committee took place between 17 January and 2 February 2012. In all, 49 briefs were sent in, and 42 groups and individuals were heard in committee. The Committee report was tabled in the Assembly on 14 February 2012.

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2011-2012

During the last week of April and the first week of May 2011, the standing committees examined the estimates of expenditure of the Government, as stipulated in Standing Order 282. By the conclusion of their proceedings, the committees had devoted 197 hours and 51 minutes to the examination of the estimates of expenditure allocated to the Government departments and agencies.

Statutory orders and orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Statutory orders

Pursuant to section 105 of the Act to amend the Highway Safety Code (2007, c. 40) and of the Regulation respecting demerit points, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment was called upon to examine the Evaluation report on the pilot project with regard to photo radar devices and red light camera systems. To this end, in spring 2011, the Committee held several deliberative meetings and a public meeting to discuss the issue with representatives of the Sûreté du Québec and of the Transport, Justice and Public Security departments.

Following this examination, on 16 November 2011, the Committee tabled in the National Assembly a report containing six unanimous recommendations. They propose, among other things, that if the Government decides to implement the photo radar devices and red light camera systems, these should be installed only in areas where accident risks are very high and where police surveillance

Did you know?

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, every Member sitting in opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he is officially responsible. The interpellation is held at a meeting of the appropriate standing committee, on Friday morning, from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon. One interpellation may be held each week during the periods in which the National Assembly ordinarily meets (excepting during intensive session, when none may be held). During 2011-2012, the Government's ministers were interpellated 16 times in standing committees, on a wide range of topics including the Gentilly-2 nuclear power station, secularism and equality between men and women, the situation of the French language in Québec and the future of pension plans.

poses a risk for road users and police officers themselves. Moreover, the members underscored the importance of properly informing the population on the implementation process of these devices and of warning users when they are approaching photo radar control areas. Lastly, the Committee emphasized the need for close cooperation between departments, police services and regional and municipal authorities as regards the selection of control areas.

In 2011-2012, the statutory orders that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:

PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN:

- Examination of the Report on the implementation of the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act

CULTURE AND EDUCATION:

- Examination of the 2009-2012 strategic plan of Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec and hearing with the representatives appointed by Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY:

- Examination of the report tabled by the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, in pursuance of section 60 of the Act to combat poverty and social exclusion

PUBLIC FINANCE:

- Examination of the financial statements and of the activity report of the Institut de la statistique du Québec

INSTITUTIONS:

- Examination of the annual reports from 2007-2008 to 2009-2010 of the Commission d'accès à l'information and of the Lobbyists Commissioner
- Examination of the 2011 five-year report of the Commission d'accès à l'information

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

- Examination of the annual management reports of the regional boards and of the health and social services agencies
- Examination of the evaluation report on the experimental Québec Health Record project in the territory of the health and social services agency for the Capitale-Nationale region.
- Examination of the report on the appraisal of the performance of the health and social services for 2009 and 2010
- Examination of the report on the implementation of the Tobacco Act 2005-2010

TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

- Examination of the Evaluation report on the pilot project on photo radar devices and red light camera systems

Did you know?

Did you know? Some orders of the standing committees come from an act or regulation, others from the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

Accountability - surveillance of agencies

Certain standing committees also carried out orders of accountability or surveillance in order to examine the activities, policy directions and management of public bodies falling within their areas of competence in accordance with Standing Orders 293.1 and 294.

In 2011-2012, the orders of accountability and of surveillance that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

- La Financière agricole du Québec

PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN:

- Commission municipale du Québec and Régie du logement

CULTURE AND EDUCATION:

- Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
- Société de télédiffusion du Québec and examination of the 2009-2012 strategic plan

LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY:

- Commission des partenaires du marché du travail
- Régie des installations olympiques

PUBLIC FINANCE:

- Institut de la statistique du Québec
- Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances
- Société immobilière du Québec
- Bureau de décision et de révision

INSTITUTIONS:

- Commission des services juridiques
- Hearing with the Public Protector on the annual activity and management reports for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 (in pursuance of section 294.1)

CITIZEN RELATIONS:

- Public Curator

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

- Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
- Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
- Comités de révision de l'assurance maladie
- Health and Welfare Commissioner

TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

- Kativik Environmental Quality Commission
- Agence métropolitaine de transports
- Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage

ORDERS OF INITIATIVE

Committees may take the initiative to examine draft regulations and regulations, policy directions, the activities and management of public agencies and departments, petitions and any other matter of public interest.

Orders of initiative

In 2011–2012 the members of the various committees took the initiative to examine issues affecting numerous areas of activity. Organizing such mandates requires many meetings during which members prepare consultation and background papers, hear experts, plan public hearings and draft final reports that may contain observations, conclusions and recommendations for the Government.

The Committee on Culture and Education produced a report entitled *De la confiance à la connaissance, de l'école à la communauté : agir pour la persévérance scolaire au Québec* following an order of initiative that it carried out for the purpose of examining the phenomenon of dropping out of school. In travelling to the regions, the Committee met with several stakeholders from the school community. These fruitful exchanges led the Committee members to make 11 recommendations. These recommendations focus, among other things, on the conditions conducive to staying in school as well as on the promotion of education and teaching.



Members of the Committee on Culture and Education during a meeting with staff members and students of La Voie High School, in Montréal.

The Committee on Labour and the Economy took on an order of initiative on *the updating of the Labour Code's anti-scab provisions*. The Committee members wanted to carry out this order to reply to several petitions that had been tabled in autumn 2011 within the context of the ongoing labour dispute at the *Journal de Montréal* newspaper. For this mandate, the members chose to consult experts and have them come before the Committee during public hearings. The final report totalling almost 70 pages contains one recommendation addressed to the Minister of Labour. It asks that certain elements of

the Labour Code be reviewed to more adequately balance the forces involved within the context of a labour dispute.



The members of the Committee on Labour and the Economy during public hearings held in 2011.

In 2011-2012, the orders of initiative that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Oil supply security

CULTURE AND EDUCATION:

- The improvement of learning opportunities in the field of physical activity, sports and culture to create a sense of belonging
- Examination of the phenomenon of dropping out of school by focussing on the valuing of education and on the actions implemented in the various regions throughout Québec.

LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY:

- The updating of the Labour Code's anti-scab provisions.

INSTITUTIONS:

- Hear Mr. Pierre Marc Johnson, Québec's chief negotiator, within the framework of the negotiations concerning the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union.

PUBLIC FINANCE:

- Examination of the measures to counter contraband tobacco consumption.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

- Hold public hearings to hear the Minister for Social Services, the Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec and the Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal within the framework of the follow-up to the order of initiative on homelessness.



The members of the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain during public hearings held in Kuujuaq, in spring 2011.

Petitions – orders of initiative

On 29 March 2011, in pursuance of the recent provisions of the Standing Orders, the members of the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, concerned about the problems experienced by the inhabitants of Northern Québec, unanimously adopted an order to examine a petition concerning housing overcrowding in Nunavik. During this deliberative meeting, the Committee had agreed to hold public

hearings to hear the initiator of the petition and two groups that are greatly involved in helping with the housing shortage: the Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau Office. During its visit to Kuujuaq, the Committee noted the needs of inhabitants and the necessity to act in the short term. It arrived at four unanimous recommendations in its report, which was tabled on 17 May 2011. These recommendations particularly concern the financial and organizational structures, including the system for allocating housing, and are directed at the Governments of Canada and of Québec, as well as the authorities responsible therefor on the Nunavik territory.

For its part, on 22 November 2011, the Committee on Health and Social Services unanimously decided to examine a petition concerning skin cancer and artificial tanning. It should be noted that slightly over thirty petitions, signed by some 55,000 petitioners, had been tabled during the fall of

2011. They stressed the concern regarding the use of tanning beds and the high risk of skin cancer. The Canadian Cancer Society, the Association des dermatologistes du Québec, the Institut national de santé publique du Québec and the Association des salons de bronzage du Québec were invited to present their viewpoints during public hearings that took place on 20 and 28 February 2012. More than 300 comments were also sent to the Committee members in relation to this mandate. The report, which was tabled in March, contains four unanimous recommendations focussing on the need to have adequate regulations, to supervise sunbed operator training, to establish a registry of businesses providing artificial tanning services and to set a minimum age requirement for the use of tanning beds.

In 2011-2012, the orders concerning the examination of petitions that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:

PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN:

- Examine a petition on housing overcrowding in Nunavik

CULTURE AND EDUCATION:

- Examine petitions on the fight against bullying in schools

LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY:

- Examine petitions on the abolishment of certain penalties involving victims of occupational illness and accidents and the request to abolish the Bureau d'évaluation médicale

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

- Examine a petition on skin cancer and artificial tanning
- Examine petitions on midwifery

The Committee on Public Administration

The Committee on Public Administration calls public administrators to account on their management. It carries out this mandate by inviting the deputy ministers and the chief executive officers of public bodies to come before it to answer the questions of parliamentarians on their annual management reports or to discuss the observations contained in the Auditor General's reports.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee must also examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding \$25,000 granted to departments and public agencies whose estimates of expenditure are voted on by the Assembly. In scrutinizing these expenditures, the Committee ensures itself of their advisability, the observance of government rules and standards governing the granting of contracts and subsidies and the equitable allocation of public funds.

In June and in December 2011, the Committee on Public Administration tabled in the National Assembly its 26th and 27th reports on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies. These reports contain respectively five and nine unanimous recommendations. They notably concern the administrative expenses of school boards as well as the management of contracts presenting risk situations at the Ministère des Transports. In the course of its work, the

Committee regularly holds deliberative meetings, but also, when necessary, it holds public meetings. It should be noted that during the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Committee examined, among other things, the annual management report of Services Québec and held hearings on the watch relating to the Québec Health Record.

Day of reflection on the implementation of the Public Administration Act

On 25 November 2011, a day of reflection was held on the implementation of the Public Administration Act, an event which was jointly organized by the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor and the Committee on Public Administration of the National Assembly. The purpose of this day was to make an assessment of the ten years of implementation of the Public Administration Act and to discuss the improvements that could be made thereto. During this day, conferences, workshops and round tables gave participants the opportunity to exchange views on the subject. Several deputy ministers, presidents of agencies, vice-chairs and chairs of standing committees were among those invited.

Reports and discussion papers of the standing committees

In 2011-2012, the standing committees produced 15 reports and discussion papers that were tabled in the National Assembly. These reports concern mandates that were carried out in pursuance of various provisions of the Standing Orders. The following is a list of the reports containing observations, conclusions and/or recommendations, and which are available on the National Assembly website.

Committee	Title of document	Number of recommendations
STATUTORY ORDER		
Transportation and the Environment	Examination of the Evaluation report on the pilot project on photo radar devices and red light camera systems	6
Health and Social Services	Examination of the 2005-2006 to 2009-2010 annual management reports and hearings with the head officers of the Montréal, Laval and Lanaudière health and social services agencies; Examination of the 2006-2007 to 2009-2010 annual management reports of the Laurentides and Montérégie health and social services agencies	observations only
SURVEILLANCE OF PUBLIC AGENCIES		
Planning and the Public Domain	Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Régie du logement	4
Culture and Education	Examination of the 2009-2012 strategic plan, policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Société de télédiffusion du Québec	1

Committee	Title of document	Number of recommendations
Culture and Education	Examination of the 2009-2012 strategic plan, policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (double mandate - also a statutory order)	observations only
Labour and the Economy	Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail and examination of the financial statements and 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 annual reports of the Fonds de développement et de reconnaissance des compétences de la main-d'œuvre (double mandate - also a statutory order)	observations only
ORDERS OF INITIATIVE		
Culture and Education	"De la confiance à la connaissance, de l'école à la communauté : agir pour la persévérance scolaire au Québec"	11
Labour and the Economy	"La modernisation des dispositions anti-briseurs de grève prévues au Code du travail"	1
Public Finance	Examination of the measures to counter contraband tobacco consumption	7
EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS		
Planning and the Public Domain	Examination of petition no. 48-20110315 concerning housing overcrowding in Nunavik	4
Health and Social Services	Examination of petitions concerning midwifery	4
Health and Social Services	Examination of petition no. 765-20111108 concerning skin cancer and artificial tanning	4
ORDER IN PURSUANCE OF STANDING ORDER 117.6 (ACCOUNTABILITY)		
Public Administration	Twenty-sixth report on the accountability of deputy ministers and head officers of public bodies	5
Public Administration	Twenty-seventh report on the accountability of deputy ministers and head officers of public bodies	9
SELECT COMMITTEE ON DYING WITH DIGNITY		
SCDD	Report from the Select Committee on Dying with Dignity	24

Did you know?

The Committees Service issues an annual statistical report on the work of the standing committees. The 2011-2012 report as well as all of the briefs and other documents tabled in the standing committees may be consulted on the National Assembly website at assnat.qc.ca.

Persons appointed by the National Assembly

Appointment of the interim Auditor General

On 29 November 2011, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, designated Mr. Michel Samson interim Auditor General following the departure of Mr. Renaud Lachance, Auditor General from 2004 to 2011. This appointment was made with the concurrence of the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition, such as is provided for in section 15 of the Auditor General Act. Mr. Samson took office on 1 December 2011.



PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Five persons are appointed to public office by the Assembly, a procedure which helps ensure that they remain independent and impartial in the performance of their duties. These persons, who are accountable to the National Assembly, are the Ethics Commissioner, the Lobbyists Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Public Protector and the Auditor General.

The **Ethics Commissioner** is responsible for the administration of the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly. He provides Members with advisory opinions containing any recommendations on any matter concerning Members' obligations under the Code. He conducts inquiries, on his own initiative or in response to a request from a Member, to determine whether the Code may have been violated by a Member or a Minister, and reports to the Assembly. Within three years after the coming into force of the Code and every five years thereafter, he must report on the carrying out of the Code and the advisability of amending it. The report is examined by the competent committee of the National Assembly. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term of office. The Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of National Assembly is now available on the website of Publications du Québec and of the Ethics Commissioner.

The **Lobbyists Commissioner** is tasked with monitoring and controlling the lobbying of holders of public office. The Commissioner develops a code of conduct for lobbyists and conducts investigations and examinations of all violations of the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act or the code of conduct. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

The **Chief Electoral Officer** oversees the application of the Election Act, the Referendum Act and part of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and also chairs the Commission de la représentation électorale, which is charged with drawing up Québec's electoral boundaries. The Chief Electoral Officer must be chosen from among the electors. He is appointed for a seven-year renewable term.

The **Public Protector** prevents and corrects errors or injustices committed against any individual or group of individuals in connection with a Québec government ministry or agency. He also intervenes in cases where citizens feel their rights have been breached or ignored by an establishment in the health and social services network. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

The **Auditor General** fosters, through audit, parliamentary control over public funds and other public property, and informs Members on how the Government and its agencies and enterprises manage public funds. He is appointed for ten years.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

In democratic systems based on the separation of powers, parliaments conduct their international relations independently and in respect of political pluralism. The President of the National Assembly has the responsibility of representing the institution in international activities, whose non-partisan nature is ensured by having delegations composed of Members from the various political groups represented at the National Assembly. Over the years the Assembly has developed an extensive network of multilateral and bilateral interparliamentary relationships.

The objectives of the National Assembly's interparliamentary and international relations

The National Assembly's interparliamentary and international relations are based on four major objectives:

1. Reinforcing the effectiveness of the institution of parliament and of elected representatives in the areas of legislation, government oversight, examination of issues of public interest and representation;
 2. Establishing the international position of the National Assembly and increasing its influence in interparliamentary networks;
 3. Fostering the active participation of the National Assembly in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity;
 4. Increasing the influence of Québec society, particularly by promoting its sectors of excellence.
-

Multilateral relations

Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF)

APF - Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie: Founded in 1967, composed of members from 78 parliaments and interparliamentary organizations on the five continents (National Assembly of Québec: full member since 1975).

The National Assembly of Québec plays a very active role within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF); this organization was presided by the President of the National Assembly from July 2009 to July 2011. During the past year, the President of the National Assembly notably continued his

Mr. Jacques Chagnon and the Secretary General of the Francophonie, Mr. Abdou Diouf, in Paris, in July 2011.



work towards promoting the French language and the diversity of cultural expressions, strengthening the APF's political role with other member bodies of the Francophonie, and consolidating peace, democracy and human rights in the French-speaking world.



37th Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

It is within this context that a delegation of the National Assembly took part in the 37th Session of the APF, which was held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, from 4 to 8 July 2011. Presided by Mr. Jacques Chagnon, the Kinshasa Session provided the opportunity for the members of the Québec delegation to contribute concretely to promoting Québec's perspective on the key multilateral Francophonie issues.

During the general debate on democracy and elections in French-speaking countries, they also were able to make known the Chief Electoral Officer's expertise as regards the strengthening of electoral processes. At the initiative of the Québec Branch, the parliamentarians attending the plenary assembly adopted a resolution and an action plan to implement the Québec City Declaration that was adopted at the conclusion of the Interparliamentary Conference on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, held on 2 and 3 February 2011.

The Americas Regional Assembly of the APF held its 27th Session in Regina, Saskatchewan, from 22 to 26 August 2011. The Québec delegation presented a final report on the cooperative movement. Furthermore, the Québec Members were involved in the preparation and adoption of two resolutions, one of which concerned the development of the cooperative movement in devitalized communities, and the other, the organization of proceedings within the Americas Region of the APF.

More recently, a Member of the National Assembly represented the Americas Region at an information and awareness seminar of the AF's Network of Women Parliamentarians on the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women* held in Budapest, Hungary, on 26 and 27 October 2011.

Lastly, a Member of the Québec Branch also represented the APF at UNESCO's 5th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was held in Paris, from 5 to 9 December 2011.

The recipients of the Ordre de la Pléiade

On 20 March 2012, the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, awarded the insignia of the Ordre de la Pléiade to ten public figures from a variety of backgrounds.

Established in 1976, the Pléiade, Order of the Francophonie and of cultural dialogue, recognizes the eminent merits of public figures who have distinguished themselves in serving the ideals of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, notably with regard to cooperation, solidarity and democracy. The recipients of the Ordre de la Pléiade 2012 each received the distinction of Knight. They are:



Ms. Carole Bessette, writer

Ms. Isabelle Boulay, singer

Ms. Francine Gaudet, former parliamentarian

Ms. Danielle Goyette, head coach of the University of Calgary women's hockey team

Ms. Marie-Nicole Lemieux, contralto

Ms. Monique Leroux, chair of the board and chief executive manager of the Mouvement des caisses Desjardins

Mr. Michel Louvain, popular music singer

Mr. Claude-Robin Pelletier, opera singer (tenor), cultural administrator, stage director, set designer and voice teacher

Ms. Ève Salvail, artist

Ms. Martine Tremblay, consultant and corporate director

The Ordre de la Pléiade recipients for 2012.

First row, left to right:

Mmes. Francine Gaudet, Isabelle Boulay,

Mr. Jacques Chagnon,

Mmes. Danielle Goyette and Carole Bessette.

Second row, left to right:

Ms. Martine Tremblay,

Mr. Claude-Robin Pelletier,

Mmes. Ève Salvail,

Monique F. Leroux,

Mr. Michel Louvain and

Ms. Marie-Nicole Lemieux.

Did you know?

The Ordre de la Pléiade is composed of five distinctions: Grand Cross, Grand Officer, Commander, Officer and Knight. To date, some 260 Québec public figures have been decorated with the Ordre de la Pléiade.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association



CPA - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Founded in 1911, composed of 185 parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 53 of the 54 countries forming the Commonwealth (National Assembly of Québec: full member since 1933).

From 13 to 19 July 2011, the Québec Branch took part in the 49th Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA, which was hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. On this occasion, the Québec Branch of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network was elected as vice-chair of the Canadian Region of this network for the next three years. Moreover, the Québec Branch took the floor during a deliberative meeting on the theme of giving prominence to the role of elected representatives and democratic institutions as a way of countering the disaffection of citizens.

This theme was again discussed by the Québec Branch in an address delivered at the 57th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, which was held from 19 to 28 July 2011, in London, at the invitation of the United Kingdom Branch of the CPA. Chosen on this occasion to speak on behalf of the women parliamentarians of the CPA's Canadian Region, the Québec Branch of the CWP network gave a presentation during a workshop on women's participation in decision-making bodies, giving an overview of Québec's experience in this matter.

Furthermore, the Québec Branch took part in three conferences and seminars during its participation in the CPA activities:

- The 33rd CPA Canadian Regional Seminar (Fredericton, New Brunswick, 3 to 6 November 2011);
- The 22nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar (New Delhi, India, 22 to 28 November 2011);
- The 61st Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure (London, United Kingdom, 5 to 9 March 2012).

The participation of Québec Members in these conferences and seminars gave them the opportunity to discuss themes such as budgetary control of the executive branch and decorum in the House.

Moreover, the President and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Québec National Assembly took part in the 29th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference, in Edmonton, at the invitation of the Parliament of Alberta, from 2 to 5 February 2012. The President, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, spoke to his counterparts about the importance and the results of parliamentary diplomacy.

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

COPA - Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas: Created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.



Since November 2010, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, has assumed the presidency of COPA, and he continues to do so until August 2012. For the first time since 1997, the National Assembly hosted, from 5 to 9 September 2011, the general assembly of this interparliamentary organization. Close to 220 delegates hailing from all regions of the Americas took part in the proceedings of this assembly.

Gathered under the theme "Parliaments of the Americas: Present!", parliamentarians discussed fundamental issues proposed by President Chagnon in his *Plan of the President*, namely the reduction of child mortality, perseverance in school, the gender wage gap and the protection of water resources. For the occasion, a large number of international experts addressed the participants, including



Mr. Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly of Québec, Ms. Zulma Ramona Gómez, First Vice-President of the COPA and Senator of Mexico, Ms. Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, Mr. Óscar Arias, former President of Costa Rica, Ms. Cristina Ruiz Sandoval, Executive Secretary of the COPA and Deputy for the State of Mexico, and Ms. Diva Hadamira Gastélum, President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and Deputy for Mexico.

Mr. Óscar Arias, former President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1987. His speech is available on the National Assembly website.

At the conclusion of this assembly, the COPA members unanimously adopted the *Québec City Declaration*. In this important document proposed by the chair, the COPA parliamentarians committed, among other things, to improve in a sustained manner the democratic operation of parliaments, to work toward ensuring gender equality, to consolidating democracy by supporting the development of COPA's electoral observation mission program, to ensure the integration of sustainable development in political and legislative actions and to work towards reaching the *Regional Millennium Goals* in the near future.

That being said, from 13 to 20 May 2011, a Member of the National Assembly travelled to Asunción, Paraguay, and to Santa Catarina, Brazil, to take part in a working meeting of COPA's Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development and in the 15th Annual Conference of the National Union of Legislative Assemblies of the Federated States of Brazil (UNALE), a major partner of the National Assembly within COPA. During the meeting in Paraguay, which focussed on the integrated management and protection of water resources, this parliamentarian introduced the Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and provide for increased water resource protection.

In July 2011, representatives of the National Assembly took part in an electoral observation mission that was held in the State of Mexico, Mexico, under the auspices of COPA. This delegation of 12 COPA parliamentarians was sent to observe the ballot of 3 July to elect the governor of the most populated State in the country. Observers stated that they were generally satisfied with the conduct of the election and made four recommendations to improve the election process of this State. Their recommendations notably concern security and the arrangement of the ballot boxes, the time at which voting commences, the physical space and the arrangement of materials in the voting offices.

Launched in 2005, the electoral observation mission program has enabled parliamentarians of COPA's member assemblies to develop expertise with regard to the election process, while confirming the strategic role played by the organization as regards the promotion and consolidation of democracy in the Americas. These missions, whose objectives are to make an on-site assessment of the electoral preparations and to observe how voting is carried out on election day are organized by COPA's Québec Secretariat, lodged at the National Assembly, with the collaboration of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec.

On 27 and 28 October 2011, a Member of the National Assembly travelled to Havana, Cuba, to take part in a meeting of COPA's Committee on Health and Social Protection. The purpose of this meeting was to study in greater detail the theme of child mortality and primary healthcare, undertaken in 2010. The other topics discussed at this meeting concerned the healthcare systems of the Americas, the situation of tuberculosis in Latin America and the Caribbean, and care programs for the disabled.

Did you know?

COPA has three distinct secretariats lodged in Québec, Mexico and Brazil. The National Assembly of Québec is also responsible for the Secretariat of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas.



Meeting of the Executive Committee of the COPA in San José, Costa Rica

The Québec Member took this opportunity to highlight some of the initiatives that are in effect in Québec. She also presented elements of the latest reform of the Professional Code in the field of mental health and human relations that aim to improve services provided to citizens.

Lastly, from 6 to 8 March 2012, a National Assembly delegation of parliamentarians, led by the President, travelled to San José, Costa Rica, to participate in COPA's executive committee meetings of the Network of Women Parliamentarian of the Americas. The National Assembly parliamentarians notably reported on the activities of the Québec Secretariat and contributed to planning the organization's upcoming activities. The President took the opportunity provided by this visit to Central America to travel to Panama to meet his counterparts of the National Assembly and the Latin-American Parliament and to promote the activities of COPA.

Did you know?

Since 2005, the Québec Secretariat of COPA has organized 12 electoral observation missions in 9 different countries of the Americas.

American interparliamentary organizations

NCSL - National Conference of State Legislatures: American interparliamentary organization founded in 1975, composed of parliamentarians and public servants of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 2000).



Meeting of the
Executive Committee
of the NCSL in
Québec City

In 2011, the National Assembly was especially active in its relations with the American interparliamentary organizations, notably by hosting in Québec City, from 29 September to 2 October 2011, a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and of its working groups on international relations and on energy supply. This meeting allowed American decision-makers to find out more about Québec, its institutions and its know-how. The members of the Working Group on Energy

Supply were informed of Québec's hydroelectric potential, and, among other things, of its transmission and export capacity and were given a technical tour of the Robert-Bourassa Dam and of the Radisson transmission installations. Let us recall that the National Assembly is the only international associated member that sits on the Executive Committee of the NCSL and that this was the second time that the organization sat, at the invitation of the National Assembly, outside of the United States.

Energy was also a key issue discussed at the Annual Assembly of the NCSL, from 8 to 11 August, in San Antonio, Texas. On this occasion, Québec parliamentarians learned about the major challenges facing the American States with regard to energy supply. Furthermore, a representative of the National Assembly had the opportunity to take part in a special training program on the industry and issues regarding energy in North America.

The National Assembly delegation also took part in activities within the Council of State Governments (CSG) and its Eastern Regional Conference (ERC). Québec parliamentarians notably took part in the 51st Annual Assembly of the ERC, which was held from 6 to 10 August in Halifax, Nova Scotia, as well as in the National Conference and North American Summit of the CSG, which were held from 19 to 23 October in Bellevue, Washington.

CSG - Council of State Governments:
 Organization created in 1933, composed of representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial powers from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 1995).



During these meetings, the Québec Members presented the British parliamentary system and Québec's supply management model to their American counterparts. They voted in favour of a resolution promoting the adoption of pre-clearance procedures applicable to train transportation between Canada and the United States. Moreover, a resolution was adopted to enjoin the Canadian and United States governments to negotiate measures concerning the action plan relating to the establishment of the North American security perimeter. These measures will meet the requirements of both countries as regards security, in addition to optimizing border controls and increasing the flow of goods and travellers.

American interparliamentary organizations are important forums for the National Assembly, which has used them to defend Québec's interests when it comes to energy, the environment, agriculture, health, education, trade and relations between Québec and the United States.

ERC/CSG - Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments: Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments: Organization that constitutes the Eastern Chapter of the CSG and is composed of parliamentarians and governmental representatives from the Northeastern United States as well as the six Canadian member provinces (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 1990).

Bilateral relations and relations with European institutions

In 2011–2012 the National Assembly was involved in a host of interparliamentary activities as part of its bilateral relations with various legislative assemblies and relations with European institutions. Many of these relationships have been institutionalized by cooperation agreements. Meetings with their counterparts gave Members of the National Assembly an opportunity to inquire about legislative and parliamentary initiatives in other jurisdictions and thereby enrich debates about issues of the day affecting Québec society.

BILATERAL RELATIONS AND RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Date	Activity	Theme
5 to 7 May 2011 in Québec City	18 th General Assembly of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association (OQPA)	Health care that is adapted to seniors and continuing to live at home The fight against poverty
10 to 13 May 2011 in Québec City	5 th session of the National Assembly / Walloon Parliament Joint Committee	Measures to bring parliaments and citizens closer together The proceedings of the Select Committee on Dying With Dignity Help for seniors The financing of federated entities
5 to 9 September 2011 in French Guyana	25 th session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee	Telehealth Land use and development
27 to 28 September 2011 in Québec City	Visit of a delegation of parliamentarians from the Assembly of the Flemish Community Committee	The functioning of the Québec National Assembly Linguistic policies with regard to education and culture
4 to 6 October 2011 in Québec City	6 th session of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee	Immigration and integration The public communication strategies of parliaments



Photo 1: 18th General Assembly of the OQPA, in Québec City. Photo 2: Mr. Jacques Chagnon and his counterpart, the President of the Walloon Parliament from 2009 to 2012, Ms. Emily Hoyos.



6 October 2011 in Québec City	Visit of a delegation of parliamentarians of the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs of the Bundestag (Germany)	Immigration and Integration
10 to 14 October 2011 in Brussels, Belgium	22 nd session of the National Assembly of Québec / Parliament of the Federation of Wallonia-Brussels – French Community Joint Committee	The challenges of vocational and technical training The promotion of health and the assessment of the public policies' impact on health Raising the awareness of youth on parliamentary democracy
24 to 26 November 2011 in L'Aquila, Italy	Plenary Session of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)	Québec and the prospects for collaboration between the CALRE and the National Assembly
13 to 18 February 2012 in Québec City	26 th session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee	The management of the education system The provision and financing of services to vulnerable or dependent persons (seniors with a loss of autonomy and disabled persons)
20 to 24 March 2012 in Québec City	7 th annual meeting of the National Assembly of Québec – Senate of the French Republic [PHOTO]	Forest management Vocational training and the integration of youth in the regions
21 March 2012 in Québec City	Visit of a delegation of the G10 Commission of the Bavarian Landtag	The fight against corruption and collusion

Did you know?

Fact sheets on the various foreign missions in which the Members of the National Assembly participate are available on the Internet site of the National Assembly at the following address: assnat.qc.ca.

Interparliamentary cooperation

For several years now, the National Assembly has been providing technical support to the parliamentary institutions of emerging and consolidating democracies at both the parliamentary and administrative levels. These cooperation activities bring together parliamentarians and experts as they share knowledge and experiences at seminars and workshops.

In April 2011, the National Assembly welcomed a parliamentary delegation of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso who came to learn more about the functioning of our committees on public administration and public finance, as well as Québec's budgetary process.

A few months later, in August 2011, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, signed a bilateral cooperation agreement in Rabat between the National Assembly of Québec and the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco in the presence of his counterpart, President Abdelwahad Radi. In order to concretely define the first stages of cooperation between both institutions, the National Assembly welcomed the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, from 7 to 9 November 2011, to hold working meetings with the administrative authorities of the National Assembly. The First Vice-President and the Secretary General of the National Assembly subsequently travelled to Rabat, from 11 to 16 March 2012, and met with the new political authorities of the House of Representatives to determine the priority needs and to start implementing a cooperation action plan.

The Association of Secretaries General of Francophone Parliaments held its general assembly in August 2011 in Libreville, Gabon. On this occasion, the Secretary General, who is treasurer of this association, made a presentation on documentary tools in the field of parliamentary procedure in the presence of some thirty participants hailing from Francophone States.

From 23 to 27 January 2012, a Vice-President and a Member of the National Assembly hosted an exchange seminar for the new parliamentarians of the National Assembly of Benin, at the headquarters of this institution in Porto Novo. Over forty participants took part in the workshops on the triple role of Members, the budgetary process in effect in Québec, as well as on parliamentary privileges and the rules of ethics of the National Assembly. A priority partner of our interparliamentary cooperation activities, the National Assembly of Benin, in March 2012, again welcomed a Québec delegation composed of two lawyers specializing in parliamentary procedure, on the occasion of a continuing education seminar on logistics.

Did you know?

During the past decade, close to 250 new parliamentarians from Mali, Benin and Niger have participated in exchange seminars with Québec Members.

Meetings with the President of the National Assembly and his counterparts

Over the past year, the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, has met with several of his counterparts, be they presidents of assemblies or of interparliamentary organizations. These official meetings, in addition to making known the National Assembly and its operation, reinforce Québec's parliamentary network abroad.

- The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the Honourable Steve Peters
- The Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, the Honourable Peter Milliken
- The President of the Parliament of Wallonia, Ms. Emily Hoyos
- The President of the National Assembly of France, Mr. Bernard Accoyer
- The President of the Senate of the French Republic, Mr. Gérard Larcher
- The President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Abdelwahad Radi
- The President of the National Union of Legislative Assemblies of the Federated States of Brazil (UNALE), Mr. José Luis Schafer
- The President of the National Assembly of Suriname, Ms. Jennifer Simons
- The President of the Parliament of the State of Mexico (Mexico), Mr. Ernesto Nemer
- The President of the Central American Parliament (Parlacen), Mr. Cortez Dorindo
- The President of the House of Deputies of Salta (Argentina), Mr. Manuel Santiago Godoy
- The President of the House of Deputies of Santiago del Estero (Argentina), Mr. Ángel Hugo Niccolai
- The President of the Assembly of the Flemish Community Committee (VGC), Ms. Carla Dejonghe
- The President of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Mr. Steve Morris
- The President of the Bavarian Landtag, Ms. Barbara Stamm
- The President of the Senate of the Republic of Gabon, Ms. Rose Francine Rogombe
- The Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, the Honourable Andrew Scheer
- The Speaker of the Knesset, Mr. Reuven Rivlin
- The President of the Senate of the French Republic, Mr. Jean-Pierre Bel
- The President of the National Assembly of Panama, Mr. Héctor Eduardo Aparicio Díaz
- The President of the Latin American Parliament, Mr. Elias Ariel Castillo Gonzalez
- The President of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, Mr. Juan Carlo Mendoza Garcia



Photo 1: Mr. Jacques Chagnon and his counterpart, the President of the French National Assembly, Mr. Bernard Accoyer, in Paris, in July 2011.

Photo 2: Mr. Jean-Claude Carle, President of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Friendship Group of the Senate of the French Republic, Mr. Gérard Larcher, President of the Senate of the French Republic from 2008 to 2011, and Mr. Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly of Québec, in Paris, in July 2011.

Photo 3: Mr. Jacques Chagnon and his counterpart, the Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, in Ottawa, in December 2011.

Official visits

The National Assembly regularly welcomes foreign dignitaries to Québec City. Among them in 2011-2012, the National Assembly welcomed the following:

Parliamentary visits:

- 18th General Assembly of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association (OQPA)
- 5th session of the National Assembly / Walloon Parliament Joint Committee
- Visit of the President of the Parti radical français and Deputy of the Nord department, Mr. Jean-Louis Borloo
- Visit of the Senator of the State of Louisiana, Mr. Éric LaFleur
- Visit of the Secretary General of the Walloon Parliament, Mr. Frederic Janssens
- Visit of a parliamentary delegation of the Assembly of the Flemish Community Committee
- Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
- 6th session of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee
- Visit of a delegation of parliamentarians of the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs of the Bundestag (Germany)
- Working visit of the Secretary General of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Najib El Khadi
- 26th session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee
- 7th annual meeting of the National Assembly of Québec – Senate of the French Republic
- Visit of a delegation of the G10 Commission of the Bavarian Landtag

Visits from representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations and other foreign dignitaries:

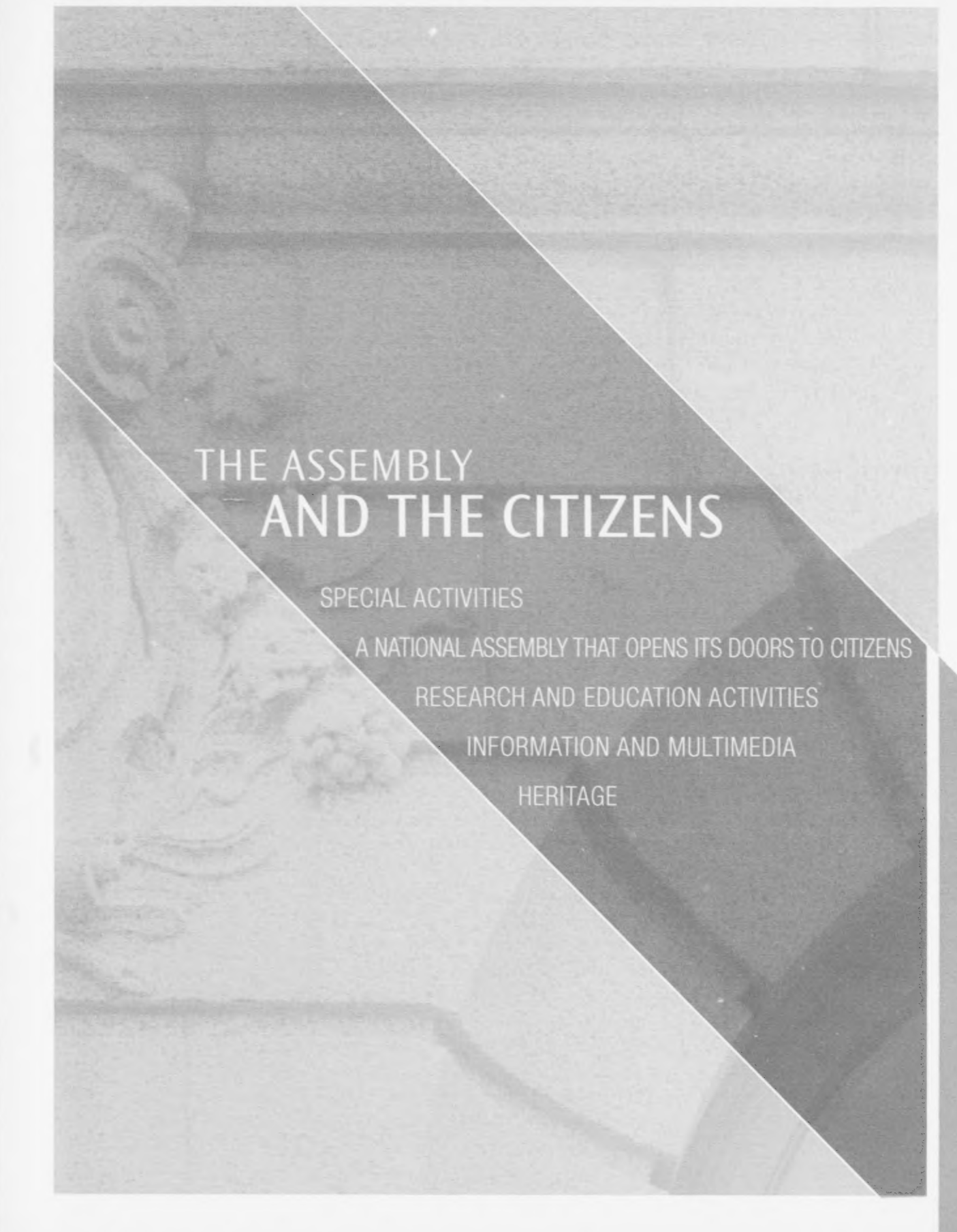
- 18th Annual meeting of Québec delegates general, delegates and heads of posts
- The President of the National Committee of the United Nations entity for gender equality and empowerment (UN Women - Canada), Ms. Almas Jiwanis
- The former President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Mr. Óscar Arias Sánchez
- The Minister of State for Federal and European Affairs in the Bavarian State, Ms. Emilia Müller
- The Minister of Public Health, Family Welfare and Protocol of Maharashtra (India), Mr. Suresh Shetty
- The Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Louisiana, Mr. Jay Dardenne

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, the Francophone Community and Expatriate Beninese, His Excellency Mr. Nassirou Arifari-Bako
- The Governor of the State of Maine, United States of America, Mr. Paul LePage
- The Secretary of State responsible for Youth and the Voluntary Sector of the French Republic, Ms. Jeannette Bougrab
- The President of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC Shanghai), Mr. Feng Guoqin

Visit from representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps:

- The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, Her Excellency Ms. Nouzha Chekrouni
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Her Excellency Ms. Dienne Hardianti Moehario
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, His Excellency Mr. Zenon Henryk Kosiniak-Kamysz
- The Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil, His Excellency Mr. Piragibe dos Santos Tarragô
- The High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Mr. Simon Nabukwesi
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia, His Excellency Mr. Zoran Veljic
- The High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa, Her Excellency Ms. Mohau Nthisana Pheko
- The ambassador of the Swiss Confederation, His Excellency Mr. Ulrich Lehner
- The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Udomphol Ninnad
- The High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Her Excellency Ms. Chitrangenee Wagiswara
- The Ambassador of Burkina Faso, Her Excellency Ms. Juliette Bonkougou
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia, Her Excellency Ms. Marina Kaljurand
- The Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency Mr. Leslie B. Gatan
- 26th Annual Meeting of Heads of Foreign Missions in Québec
- The Consul General of the Kingdom of Spain in Montreal, Mr. Javier Dago Elorza
- The Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Montréal, Ms. Jiangping Zhao
- The Consul General of the Kingdom of Morocco in Montréal, Mr. Zoubair Hakam
- The Consul General of the Hellenic Republic in Montréal, Mr. Orestis Athanassios Kafopoulos
- The Consul General of the Kingdom of Belgium in Montréal, Mr. Karl Dhaene
- The Consul General of the United States of America in Montréal, Mr. Andrew Charles Parker

- The Consul General of the State of Israel in Montréal, Mr. Joël Lion
- The Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Montréal, Mr. Amin Mourad Meleika
- The Consul General of the Republic of Tunisia in Montréal, Mr. Nehrou El Arbi
- The Consul General of the Republic of Cuba in Montréal, Mr. Alain González González



THE ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT OPENS ITS DOORS TO CITIZENS

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

INFORMATION AND MULTIMEDIA

HERITAGE



THE ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Several special activities took place at the Assembly in 2011-2012. Through their uniqueness, they made it possible to celebrate important events and historical accomplishments, to underline outstanding achievements, to debate and exchange on societal issues and to bring citizens, professionals and parliamentarians together.

Medals of honour of the National Assembly

In 2011-2012, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, awarded the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly to 12 public figures from all walks of life, particularly the arts. This year, the medals were awarded to individuals deserving of recognition for their career or for their contribution to Québec society.



18 October 2011

Mr. Gilles Vigneault, surrounded by the parliamentary group representatives, Mr. Gérard Deltell, Mmes. Christine St-Pierre and Pauline Marois, and by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon.



2 December 2011

The recipients surrounded by the parliamentary group representatives. Left to right: Ms. Line Beauchamp, Mr. Gérard Deltell, Ms. Sylvie Fréchette, Messrs. Georges Brossard, Jacques Doucet, Jacques Chagnon and Ms. Nicole Léger.



21 November 2011

The members of the group Rock et Belles Oreilles and their manager. Left to right: Messrs. Richard Z. Sirois, Jacques Primeau, Bruno Landry, Yves Pelletier, Ms. Chantal Francke, Messrs. André Ducharme and Guy A. Lepage.



29 March 2012

Photo 1: The President of the Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, and Mr. Kent Nagano. Photo 2: The President of the Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, and Mr. Raymond Lévesque.

Did you know?

At the National Assembly, four medals may be awarded in recognition of an individual's particular merit. They are the President's Medal, the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly, the Medal of the National Assembly and the MNA's Medal. Each of these distinctions is a reproduction of an original medal engraved by artist Serge Santucci, with the material depending on the type of medal.

The President's Medal is awarded only to public figures deserving of recognition by all parliamentarians at the National Assembly and the general public.

The Medal of Honour of the National Assembly is awarded to public figures deserving of recognition by all parliamentarians. These public figures are selected upon a unanimous recommendation made to the President of the National Assembly by a committee composed of Members from all parliamentary groups. These Members meet in camera once or twice a year.

The Medal of the National Assembly is awarded exclusively by parliamentarians to individuals they believe are deserving of special recognition. It may also be awarded as an official gift to other elected officials or public figures during parliamentary missions outside Québec or official receptions at the National Assembly.

The MNA's Medal is awarded to each Member of the National Assembly elected or re-elected to a new legislature or following a by-election.

The 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building

On 8 April 1886, the Members sat for the first time in the National Assembly Chamber. And that is where, for the past 125 years, parliamentarians have represented their fellow citizens, passed laws and overseen government activities. In 2011, the National Assembly invited the people of Québec and visitors from around the world to discover Québec's Parliament Building, a symbol of democracy and a witness to history.

Designed by Eugène-Étienne Taché, the Parliament Building is a monument to the glory of the women and men who marked the history of Québec and French America. Built between 1877 and 1886 in the architectural style of the Second Empire and inspired by the expansion of the Louvre in Paris, this unique structure was recognized as a Québec national historic monument in 1985.



Did you know?

Eugène-Étienne Taché was born on 25 October 1836 in Montmagny. Surveyor, civil engineer, and senior public servant, he designed several of Québec City's institutional buildings. The unique style that Taché gave them left a lasting impression on the capital city. We can indeed thank this architect for a major part of the city's French character that we still admire today.

Inauguration of the *Je me souviens* exhibition

In honour of the 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building, the National Assembly is presenting the *Je me souviens* exhibition from 19 May 2011 to 21 December 2012. This ground-breaking exhibition, open to the general public, unveils some still unknown details of the history and architecture of this prestigious building. A pictorial timeline containing numerous period photographs guides visitors through the historical milestones. It gives visitors the opportunity to see archival documents and collectors' items illustrating the building's history drawn by Eugène-Étienne Taché. Original plans and drawings, old photographs and post cards, as well as various collectibles bearing witness to the history of the Parliament Building showcase this exhibition. The fruit of the work of several administrative units of the Assembly, the exhibition is set up in the public areas of the Parliament Building, along the usual corridors used by visitors at the National Assembly and continues right up to the Library's atrium, where the history of the other parliamentary buildings is explained.



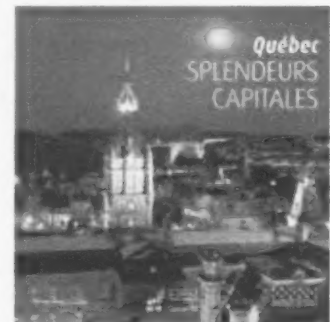
Je me souviens
exhibition

On 12 January 1948, the fleurdelisé flag flew from the central tower of the Parliament Building following a government order issued by Maurice Duplessis' Union nationale. Further, since 15 December 1976, Québec's flag has been displayed to the right of the President's throne in the National Assembly.

Launching of *Québec, splendeurs capitales*

An eloquent symbol of Québec democracy, the National Assembly Chamber has welcomed its Members since 1886. Its designer, Eugène-Étienne Taché, has made the Parliament Building a fitting monument to our history and its artisans. Launched on 14 April 2011 at the Salon International du livre de Québec by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, *Québec, splendeurs capitales*, praises in photograph and writing the charm and beauty of this environment in which Québec's political history continues to be written.

Featuring the pictures of photographer Christian Chevalier and the poetry of writer Stanley Péan, *Québec, splendeurs capitales* was published by the National Assembly, in collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec and Publications du Québec.



"Certain correspondences speak for themselves, such as this celebration in 125 photographs of the 125 years of the Parliament Building which houses 125 Members."

- Stanley Péan

Unveiling of a commemorative plaque



Messrs. Jacques Langlois, Chairman of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec, and Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly.

The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, and the chairman and director general of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec, Mr. Jacques Langlois, unveiled a commemorative plaque marking the 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building. The ceremony took place during the Parliament's Open House Day held on the Québec National Holiday, on 24 June 2011. The plaque was then installed on the Parliament's façade, to the right of the *Fisherman with Spear*.

Lunchtime presentations with historian Frédéric Lemieux

Mr. Frédéric Lemieux, a National Assembly historian, gave two presentations on the history of this prestigious building on 21 June and on 31 August 2011. Over one hundred citizens, visitors and staff members of the National Assembly, departments and organizations attended these outdoor presentations, which concerned the construction of the Parliament Building and the development of Parliament Hill from 1886 to the present day.



Production of a mosaic of flowers around Tourny Fountain

In spring 2011, the National Assembly had a superb mosaic of flowers planted around Tourny Fountain. Designed by Ms. Hélène Corriveau, the agronomist responsible for the Parliament Building gardens, the mosaic required 75 hours of work and approximately 20,000 seedlings: 15,000 red *Alternanthera* and 5,000 green *Santolina*. The mosaic was made by a group of Laval University students.



Did you know?

The central tower of the Parliament Building is dedicated to Jacques Cartier. Originally, Eugène-Étienne Taché had wanted to install a bronze statue of Cartier in the tower, but that did not materialize.





On 7 April 2011, Claude Bernatchez hosted Radio-Canada's *Première heure* radio program live from Le Parlementaire restaurant. Over 100 listeners were there for the show's recording. Mr. Frédéric Lemieux, a National Assembly historian, also spoke about how the very first sitting of the Assembly unfolded in the Green Chamber of the Legislative Assembly, on 8 April 1886.

The Symposium on Democracy, Parliamentarians and the Media

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building and of the 140th anniversary of the Press Gallery, the National Assembly hosted, in October 2011, the Symposium on Democracy, Parliamentarians and the Media. Seventeen speakers from Québec and abroad discussed these issues with some 400 participants from various walks of life. Students, professionals, parliamentarians and citizens debated on three core themes: information versus opinion, information control and the use of new technologies for the benefit of democracy.



Mr. Jacques Attali, writer, professor and former special advisor to French President Mr. François Mitterrand, and Mr. Vicente Fox, former president of Mexico, respectively delivered the opening address and the closing address of the Symposium. A round-table discussion also brought together three former journalists – all now Members of the Assembly – who shared their experience and raised some of the issues related to the current media and political contexts. The video and photo archives are available on the Symposium on Democracy, Parliamentarians and the Media page at the following address: assnat.qc.ca.



The participants in the Symposium on Democracy, Parliamentarians and the Media in the Red Chamber.

A National Assembly that opens its doors to citizens

In addition to offering Québec citizens the possibility of following parliamentary work and taking part therein, the National Assembly opens its doors to the public all year long. Guided tours and Open House Days thus allow all Quebecers to discover the Parliament Building and attend the parliamentary activities.

Activities for the general public

Open House Days at the Parliament Building



Samuel de Champlain
accompanied by
visitors.

This year, close to 1,200 visitors and citizens underlined Québec's National Holiday, on 24 June, at the Parliament Building. On this occasion, Eugène-Étienne Taché, Jean Talon, Samuel de Champlain and Pamphile Le May were among the historical figures on hand to welcome them and make them discover the rich architectural heritage and history of the building.

New this year, the National Assembly teamed up with the Journées de la culture by opening its doors on 1 and 2 October 2011. Not only did visitors have access to the National Assembly

Chamber, the Legislative Council Chamber and the standing committee rooms, but they also had the opportunity of climbing the stairs to the very top of the building's central tower. They also were given a tour of the Library and, for the first time ever, they were given access to the television broadcast facilities of the Assembly. This activity attracted close to 1,000 culture enthusiasts.

On 7 June 2011, the Assembly welcomed the Grand défi Pierre Lavoie caravan. The names of the 18 winning schools of the Get Up and Move competition, which took place from 2 to 30 May, were announced in the presence of Members and elementary school students.



Exhibitions

The Assembly proposes several themes to explore through its exhibitions. In addition to experiencing the *Je me souviens* exhibition, which was designed to mark the 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building, from 19 May 2011 to 21 December 2012, visitors can take a fascinating trip through time by exploring virtual exhibitions that showcase the documents and objects from the National Assembly's heritage collection. Internet users can thus visit the *Duplessis* and *Le Devoir* exhibitions at the following address: bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/expositionsvirtuelles.

Guided tours

The National Assembly offers visitors free guided tours of the Parliament Building lasting approximately 30 minutes each. The tours provide details of the history and workings of Québec's parliamentary institutions, the Second Empire style architecture of the Parliament Building and the many works of art it houses.

From 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012, a total of 78,381 people visited the Assembly during 4,063 guided tours. Of this number, 28,088 (36 %) were pupils or students, and 114 people had reduced mobility. A total of 1,430 group visits were also conducted and enabled 41,764 persons to discover the Parliament Building.

Furthermore, 22,225 people walked through the visitors' door to visit the restaurants, standing committee chambers and La Boutique gift shop. Lastly, 120 visitors also had the opportunity of climbing to the top of the central tower for a closer look at the clock.

In the summer of 2011, more than 7,700 passers-by visited the information kiosk outside the Parliament Building, and several among them took a guided tour of the gardens and grounds.



A guided tour of the clock in the central tower with Mr. André Viger, master clockmaker.

Parliament Building Visits by Place of Origin

PLACE OF ORIGIN	NUMBER OF	%
Québec	%	58.36
Other provinces	9,752	12.44
United States	8,304	10.59
Other countries	14,580	18.60
Total	78,381	100 %

Parliament Building Visits by Language

LANGUAGE	NUMBER OF VISITORS	%
English	23,653	30.17
Spanish	562	0.71
French	54,083	69.03
Italian	77	0.01
Québec Sign Language (QSL)	6	0
Total	78,381	100 %

Parliament Building Visits by School Group

GROUPS	NUMBER OF PUPILS OR STUDENTS	%
Elementary	11,272	40.11
Secondary	12,373	44.02
Post-secondary	4,443	16
Total	28,088	100 %

Guided tours adapted for persons with hearing disabilities

Since May 2011, persons with hearing disabilities have access to specially adapted guided tours of the Parliament Building. Four iPods, whose sign language content was created by the National Assembly, are henceforth available on request.



Le Parlementaire
restaurant

Parliament Building restaurants

Le Parlementaire, located in the inner courtyard of the Parliament Building, is open to the public. The restaurant features a magnificent Beaux Arts decor. Witness to parliamentary social life, host of numerous State dinners and formal receptions and venue par excellence for Québec products, Le Parlementaire is unique among the region's restaurants.

Known as the "Mini-Débat" until 2008, the Café du Parlement is the ideal restaurant for guests with little time to eat. Choices include hot meals and salads, a variety of sandwiches and snacks. It is located on the ground floor of the Parliament Building.

In 2011-2012, 46,319 visitors were welcomed at Le Parlementaire restaurant and enjoyed some of Québec's finest dishes prepared by our chef. The Café du Parlement, for its part, received 29,510 customers.

Did you know?

The Café du Parlement was inaugurated on 14 December 1917. Originally a gathering place reserved for the Members, the National Assembly personnel and for the press, it opened its doors to the public in 1968. It was renamed Le Parlementaire four years later.

Did you know?

The National Assembly offers groups the possibility of reserving Le Parlementaire for training, business or social activities. Support is provided for the organization of private activities to ensure that each and every event is unforgettable.

Theme brunches

Le Parlementaire restaurant once again invited the population to two summer brunches in 2011. On 26 June and 10 July, 632 visitors thus partook in a culinary experience featuring Québec's regional dishes. On this occasion, citizens also had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the Parliament Building. The Carnival brunches, which took place on 5 and 12 February 2012, also allowed some 400 visitors to enjoy a brunch and discover this historical venue.

A forum for exchanges

National Assembly Open House for New Quebecers

For several years, the National Assembly has been working toward helping citizens become better acquainted with this institution and understand the role of Members in our society. Newcomers constitute an ideal target group in this regard, as a good understanding of our democratic institutions fosters better integration into Québec society.



The President, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, and the First Vice-President, Ms. Fatima Houde-Pepin, surrounded by a group of citizens of the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Chaudière-Appalaches regions.

The National Assembly therefore worked closely with the Department of Immigration and Cultural Communities and the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec to organize an awareness day at the Parliament Building. This open house is an opportunity for immigrants from selected regions of Québec to become better acquainted with the National Assembly as a democratic institution, to meet the President and Members from their region, and to learn more about the history of Québec and its parliamentary system.

Open House 2011-2012

31 May 2011	Bas-Saint-Laurent and Chaudière-Appalaches
18 October 2011	Laurentides, Lanaudière and Capitale-Nationale (Portneuf)
27 March 2012	Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Côte-Nord and Capitale-Nationale (Charlevoix and Québec)

Did you know?

Since autumn 2009, six open houses have been held. More than 450 new Quebecers from twenty different countries accepted the invitation extended by the President and their respective Members. Comments by participants have been very positive so far. This activity constitutes a genuine investment in Québec's democratic life, as it involves all of its members.

9th Political Book Day in Québec

Québec's 9th Political Book Day was held on 12 April 2011. This activity, organized by the Library of the National Assembly, seeks to raise the profile of political books in the eyes of parliamentarians and the general public. The various prizes awarded on this occasion aim to reward authors who are interested in Québec politics.



The participants in the round table of the 9th Political Book Day in Québec.

The Political Book Day steering committee proposed a selection of activities. The Day thus began with a visit of *Les trésors de la Bibliothèque* exhibition, which features a collection of ancient books. Historian Yvan Lamonde then gave a conference entitled *The Quiet Revolution, Tomorrow*. Following this, a round table discussion was held on the theme *Quiet Revolution: interruption or Continuity*. The participants in this activity were Mr. Jacques Beauchemin, Ms. Suzanne Clavette, Ms. Lucia Ferretti, Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie and Mr. Yvan Lamonde.

The Day ended with the awards ceremony. Messrs. Marcel Martel and Martin Pâquet received the Prix de la Présidence de l'Assemblée nationale, for their work *Langue et politique au Canada et au Québec : une synthèse historique*. For his part, Mr. Stéphane Savard received the Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant as well as the Prix du ministère des Relations internationales du Québec/ministère des Affaires étrangères de France for a doctoral thesis entitled *Retour sur un projet du siècle : Hydro-Québec comme vecteur des représentations symboliques et identitaires du Québec, 1944 à 2005*. As for Mr. Alexandre Lévesque, he received the Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant for a master's thesis entitled *Les responsables politiques québécois face au conflit israélo-arabe (1944-1995)*.



The First Vice-President, Ms. Houda-Pepin, surrounded by the 2011 winners.

The Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour program

On 14 April 2011, the National Assembly hosted the sixth edition of the Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour event. Thirteen students from secondary 4 and 5 were able to explore a profession of interest to them, becoming directors and cameramen for the day. Hosted by a group of employees from the Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate, these young people were given the opportunity to learn more about the field of television. The outstanding work and commitment of this directorate's hosts was underlined by the participants and organizers of the Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour event.



Young people in action.

Research and education activities

The Library of the National Assembly

The Library's mission is to meet the documentary and research needs of Members and of the Assembly's administrative units by providing them with reliable and unbiased information, analyses and archives. To this end, reference, research, document management and archives services are at their disposal. The Library is also responsible for conserving and showcasing the National Assembly's collection of heritage objects and is open to citizens.



Reference Services

In this era of constantly evolving information sources, it is important for Members to be able to count on the library's specialists, who, thanks to their training, unique knowledge of the Assembly and access to the most pertinent document sources, can quickly provide them with the information they are searching for.

In 2011-2012, reference staff at the library answered 8,316 information and research queries. Of these, 3,600 came from the priority target groups, namely parliamentarians, their associates and staff at the National Assembly and agencies reporting to the National Assembly. The latter have access to the monthly lists of new additions to the library as well as to the bibliography on parliamentarism in Québec. The bibliography is available online and is the most comprehensive source of information to date on parliamentary work in Québec.

Research Services

In 2011-2012, Library staff assisted the nine sectorial committees and the Committee on Public Administration carry out their various activities. Much support was also provided to the Select Committee on Dying With Dignity, whose report was released on 22 March 2012. In total, the Library staff actively participated in 54 standing committee orders, preparing more than 112 papers of various sorts. It notably helped to draft 12 committee reports that were tabled in the National Assembly.

During the same year, support services assisted the interparliamentary and international relations in carrying out their activities by performing 67 research mandates, whether in the form of speeches, reports or briefing notes. As regards research on historic or institutional matters, the Library staff answered several questions on the history of the Parliament Building, parliamentarians and the practice of parliamentarism in Québec. Furthermore, all information gathered on these topics is for the most part available in the history section of the National Assembly website and has been updated on a regular basis.

In keeping with the regular publication schedule, two issues of the Bulletin de la Bibliothèque were published in 2011-2012, including a thematic edition on the 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building.

The Library collections

The Library has a rich collection that is specifically designed to meet the documentary needs of parliamentarians. It is composed primarily of books on law, political science, sociology, economy and history, as well as of all of Québec Government publications, of which it is the depositary. Special collections include the library of Pierre-Olivier Chauveau, who was Premier of Québec from 1867 to 1873, as well as old and rare books.



As at 31 March 2012, 320,259 documents were available for consultation in the Library's CUBIQ computerized catalogue, as were over 2.2 million documents distributed as follows in the various collections:

PRINT	
monographs	507,453
magazines and periodicals	281,780
newspapers	726,105
Microdocuments	
microfilms	38,160
microfiches	571,281
Electronic documents (CD-ROMs, DVDs, etc.)	11,639
Online electronic documents	64,497
Audio recordings	185
Videocassettes	875
Posters, cards and photographs	1,107
Total	2,203,082

In 2011-2012, Members and their associates, the staff at the National Assembly, agencies reporting to the National Assembly, Québec government libraries and the citizens of Québec used the Library collections by consulting close to 30,000 documents and by borrowing 4,800 books and periodicals. Moreover, some 256,000 pages have been digitized.

Library attendance statistics

During the past year, 8,909 persons visited the Library. They consisted of users, guests invited to a special activity, or ordinary visitors. Open house days, guided tours, book launchings, exhibitions and conferences were held throughout the year. Over 2,700 persons attended these activities. Lastly, 4,046 citizens used the reference services and benefited from welcoming, guidance and training services to help them make the best use of the available tools, the website of the Assembly and the Library catalogue.



Did you know?

All of these documents are accessible by consulting the Library catalogue or its website. The digitization of the documentary collections enables the Library to meet two objectives: contribute to conserving these documents, many of which are unique, and make them available to a wider public.

Initiation and Education on Democracy

To stimulate the interest of people of all ages in the exercise of democracy and contribute to their becoming active and well-informed citizens, the National Assembly has developed various activities and publications to educate on democracy. The Young Democrats' Tournament and the parliamentary simulations, along with the activities of the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, are geared toward training and education on democracy offered by the National Assembly.

Presidents' Tour

From 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, the Presidents' Tour took the President of the National Assembly and the three Vice-Presidents, accompanied by Members for the electoral divisions visited, to 44 high schools where they met 7,029 students. This activity aims to broaden the knowledge students with regard to the role played by the National Assembly and to promote the importance of citizen participation. Finally, it provides young people with an opportunity to exchange views on topics that are of interest to them.



Photo 1: Mr. Jacques Chagnon during his visit to Georges-Vanier School, in Laval. Photo 2: Ms. Fatima Houda-Pepin with a group of students of Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption College, in Nicolet. Photo 3: Mr. François Ouimet, visiting Des Sources High School, in Dollard-des-Ormeaux. Photo 4: Mr. François Gendron surrounded by students of Horizon Jeunesse high school, in Laval.

The Young Democrats' Tournament and the parliamentary simulations

The Tournament and the parliamentary simulations are role-playing activities designed to educate participants about the operation of the National Assembly, its rules and privileges and the limits of its powers. Apprentice Members spend several days drafting and discussing bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and respect for others.

19TH YOUNG DEMOCRATS' TOURNAMENT

Date:	15 to 17 April 2011
Target group:	Secondary 4 and 5 and college students
Number of participants:	183 students and 41 teachers
Number of schools and colleges represented:	28
Number of teams involved:	41
Theme:	Politics and the environment
Gold medal winners:	
	High school category: Saint-Charles-Garnier high school (Québec City)
	College category: Champlain college (Saint-Lambert)



15TH PUPILS' PARLIAMENT

Date:	29 April 2011
Target group:	6 th grade elementary school students
Number of participants:	121 students and 68 teachers
Titles of the three bills examined:	
	An Act to improve lunchtime child care
	Cyberbullying Act
	An Act respecting openness to cultural diversity among students
	Bills 2 and 3 were passed.

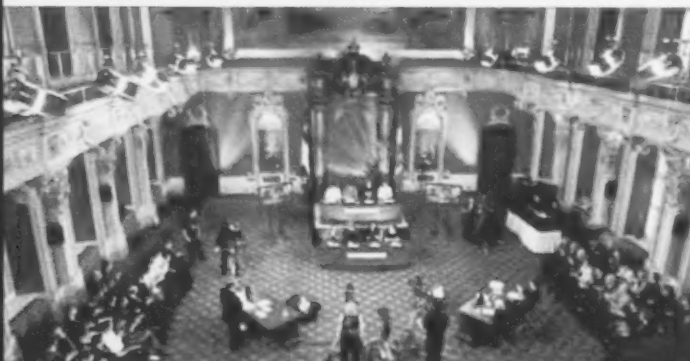


Photo 1: The 2011 Tournament Finals, High School category. Photo 2: Mr. François Gendron surrounded by the pupil-Members in the Blue Chamber.

20TH STUDENT FORUM

Date:	8 to 12 January 2012
Target group:	College students
Number of participants:	129 students and 42 teachers
Number of Cegeps represented:	24
Titles of the three bill examined:	An Act to introduce a health system users' contribution Toll Roads Act Mandatory Voting Act Bills 1 and 2 were passed.



10TH YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT

Date:	8 to 10 February 2012
Target group:	Secondary 3 and 4 students
Number of participants:	131 student Members, members of the Presiding Body, secretaries, journalists and teachers
Number of schools represented:	36
Titles of the three bills examined:	An Act respecting the right to vote of minors An Act respecting drivers' licenses for minors An Act aiming to make school environments ecoresponsible Bills 1 and 3 were passed.



Youth Parliament and Student Parliament of Québec

The National Assembly also lends its support and arranges logistics for both of these parliamentary simulations aimed at university and college students. The 62nd legislature of the Youth Parliament, held from 26 to 30 December 2011, brought together 101 participants. The Student Parliament of Québec, for its part, held its 26th legislature from 2 to 6 January 2012 and included 135 participants. Each year, these activities give young people an opportunity to spend a few days learning the basics of the legislative and parliamentary process.



Photo 1: The participants sitting in the Blue Chamber during the 2012 Student Forum. Photo 2: The participants in committee, chaired by the Member for Kamouraska-Témiscouata, Mr. André Simard, during the 2012 Young People's Parliament.

Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

The foundation was established by an Act of Parliament in 1978 to honour the work of Jean-Charles Bonenfant. Its mission is to increase, improve and disseminate knowledge of our political and parliamentary institutions and to promote study and research on democracy. This mission takes the form of parliamentary internships together with scholarships, conferences on parliamentarism and democracy, educational activities as well as financial support to the National Assembly's educational activities.

In 2011, the foundation took on a new look and revamped its website. An increasing number of Internet users visit the site each month and may easily access the foundation's calendar of activities. Check out the new features at the following address: fondationbonenfant.qc.ca.



Parliamentary internships

Each year, five ten-month internships are offered to students having had a bachelor's degree from a Québec university for at least two years. Excellent marks, an interest in democratic institutions as well as social and community involvement are the main selection criteria. The paid internships were of \$21,000 in 2011-2012.

The five candidates selected experience the numerous facets of Québec parliamentary life, becoming more familiar with the operation of the National Assembly, the legislative process and the political arena. Furthermore, they attend training courses prepared by the institutions that report to the Assembly, namely the Ethics Commissioner, the Lobbyists Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Auditor General, the Public Protector, and the Auditor General.

Did you know?

Jean-Charles Bonenfant was born on 21 July 1912 at Île d'Orléans. He received a classical education at the Petit Séminaire de Québec before studying law at Laval University. He successively filled the positions of journalist and secretary to Premier Maurice Duplessis. In 1939, he became assistant librarian, then director of the Legislative Library of the National Assembly and chose to end his professorial career.

Each intern is subsequently paired with a Member from the Government and then a Member in opposition. The interns also organize a fact-finding mission to a foreign parliament and exchange with their counterparts from the Parliament of Canada and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Lastly, the interns are required to prepare a dissertation on a topic in relation to parliamentarism and democracy.

End of 2010-2011 internships



The Vice-President of the Fondation, Mr. François Ouimet, surrounded by the scholarship recipients for 2010-2011: Loïc Blancquaert, Évelyne Beaudin, Dominic Migneault, Alex Perreault and Guillaume Tremblay-Boily.

In June 2011, the scholarship interns for 2010-2011, Évelyne Beaudin, Loïc Blancquaert, Dominic Migneault, Alex Perreault and Guillaume Tremblay-Boily, completed their internships. Over this ten-month period, the interns increased their knowledge of Québec's democratic institutions, and had the chance to compare them with those of Israel. They were particularly interested in the voting process, the parliamentary reforms, the language issue and the integration of immigrants. Their mission report, which was tabled in June 2011, is available on the foundation's website.

On 7 June 2011, an official ceremony presided by Mr. François Ouimet, Vice-President of the National Assembly and of the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, marked the end of a busy year as the interns submitted their dissertations:

- *La création des cégeps. Le Rapport Parent et les débats parlementaires de 1967* (Évelyne Beaudin)
- *L'impact du jugement Malouf au Québec (1973-1974)* (Loïc Blancquaert)
- *La période des questions à l'Assemblée nationale : perspective historique et étude comparée* (Dominic Migneault)
- *Système fédératif, signature et ratification du Protocole de Kyoto : Le Québec a-t-il eu voix au chapitre ?* (Alex Perreault)
- *« Front commun contre le gouvernement » : Portrait des relations entre le Parti libéral du Québec, le Parti québécois et les syndicats du secteur public lors des négociations de 1972 à 1983.* (Guillaume Tremblay-Boily)

These dissertations are available from the Library of the National Assembly and the foundation's website.

The scholarship interns also took part in the Annual Conference of the Société québécoise de science politique, at the Université du Québec à Montréal, on 19 and 20 May 2011. They presented the fruits of their labour during workshops with researchers and academics.

Beginning of 2011-2012 internships

The scholarship interns for 2011-2012, Marie-Joëlle Carbonneau, Olivier Côté, François Gagnon, André-Yanne Parent and Ludovic Soucisse, began their internships in September 2011. They were alternately twinned with a Member from the parliamentary group forming the Government and a Member in opposition. Their fact-finding mission was carried out in Australia from 1 to 19 March 2012. The interns had a particular interest in the Australian Constitution, the electoral system, the obligatory vote as well as the political structures of the various local communities, for the purpose of comparing them with the situation in Québec.



The scholarship recipients for 2011-2012:
Ludovic Soucisse,
Marie-Joëlle Carbonneau,
Olivier Côté, François Gagnon
and André-Yanne Parent.

Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools

Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools are inspired by the National Assembly while mirroring the operation of student councils. They encourage students to take part in decisions affecting student life, thus helping them to feel that they have a role to play in their school communities. Participation takes place in a spirit of cooperation and assistance between the school board, school principal and school staff members.

Furthermore, these activities allow young people to learn about and uphold democratic values such as freedom of speech, respect for differences of opinion, the art of compromise, solidarity, justice, tolerance, equality, representation, the right to vote and access to information. By the same token, students acquire knowledge of the National Assembly.

The contribution of Rio Tinto Alcan helps the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation run this exercise in democratic participation and education. The Fédération des commissions scolaires and the Secrétariat à la jeunesse also contribute financially to setting up Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools.

As at 31 March 2012, Parliaments in High Schools included 239 schools. Having been launched only two years ago, Parliaments in Elementary Schools already have 271 participating schools. In total, over 500 elementary schools and high schools from all regions of Québec have adopted this student council model. Finally, close to 10,000 student council members are involved in this project to further democratic participation and education.



The Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools at the Aux-Quatre-Vents (Bonaventure), Saint-Pierre (Isle-aux-Coudres) and Saint-Joseph (Chandier) schools.

Inaugurated in spring 2008, the Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools Awards recompense students for their achievements. In 2011-2012, the foundation awarded six \$500 prizes to schools, thus enabling them to implement one of the bills passed by their student council. The following is a list of the bills introduced by the 2011-2012 recipients:



Prizes awarded to Parliaments in Elementary Schools

- An Act respecting the integration of composting
École institutionnelle de Charlemagne (Charlemagne)
- An Act to create an electronic bulletin board
École des Pionniers - Pavillon de la Salle
(Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures)
- An Act to raise awareness with regard to differences and bullying
École des Mésanges (Deux-Montagnes)

Prizes awarded to Parliaments in High Schools

- An Act respecting the Student Parliament election policy
École secondaire du Mont-Sainte-Anne (Beaupré)
- An Act respecting the dress code
École Louis-Jacques-Casault (Montmagny)
- An Act respecting the creation of a lunchtime improvisation league
École Les Compagnons-de-Cartier (Québec)

Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions

Launched in November 2007, the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions is the result of a joint initiative of the National Assembly and Laval University. The five persons appointed by the National Assembly as well as the National Assembly of the French Republic are also partners of the Chair.

The Chair has four objectives:

1. Create a university hub of excellence on democracy and parliamentary institutions;
2. Make parliamentary institutions a specific research, teaching and training subject in political science and the social sciences;
3. Promote the awareness of students about all aspects of parliamentarism in modern democracies;
4. Foster the openness of the parliamentary community concerning its environment.

Its activities include support for research, continuous education and knowledge sharing. In November 2011 and February 2012, the Chair published issues nos. 4 and 5 of the *Cahiers de recherche électorale et parlementaire*.

Issue no. 4, entitled "Le contrôle de l'administration gouvernementale par les commissions parlementaires dans quelques Parlements de tradition britannique", stems from a partnership between the Research Chair and the Auditor General of Québec. This study was carried out by Réjean Pelletier and Pierre-Luc Turgeon.

Issue no. 5, entitled "Le Comité des Comptes Publics de la Chambre des Communes du Parlement du Royaume Uni. Histoire, rôle et fonctionnement", sets out the results of the research project conducted by Thomas C. Eboutou and Louis M. Imbeau, assisted by the Auditor General of Québec.

In 2011, the Chair also signed two important partnership agreements. The first, with the CROP polling firm, will provide scholarships to students as well as internships, and will allow CROP/Research Chair polls to be conducted. This agreement provides researchers with access to data banks. The second agreement, with the Organization of American States (OAS), fosters the development of research partnerships with regard to elections, the election processes and election behaviour in the Americas.



Student Page program

Established in collaboration with the Research Chair in 2009, this internship program allows undergraduate students of Laval University the possibility of gaining valuable work experience and familiarizing themselves with Québec's parliamentary institutions.

Fourteen young people studying law, political science, public affairs and international relations began their internship in August 2011, under the supervision of Mr. Gilles Jourdain, who is responsible for the pages at the National Assembly. As of this year, students enrolled in the bachelor of history program are also eligible to enter the page program.

This internship comprises ten to fourteen weeks of paid work at the National Assembly during the sessional periods, between the months of August and June. Students are also required to write a research paper on a facet of parliamentarism of their choice, with the guidance and support of a staff member of the National Assembly. Students taking part in the page program earn six academic credits toward their B.A.

Since the pages are at the centre of parliamentary activities, they have the privilege of witnessing first hand the political, legislative and parliamentary roles of Members. This practical experience is an invaluable complement to the knowledge they acquire at university.





The student pages for
2011-2012

Course in parliamentary law and procedure

For an eighth consecutive year, Laval University, the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions, and the National Assembly have formed a partnership to offer a course on parliamentary law and procedure to university students. Tailor-made for law and political science students, this course seeks to instruct them on the rules and principles that characterize the organization and operation of the parliamentary proceedings carried out at the National Assembly. In 2011-2012, 30 students took this course.

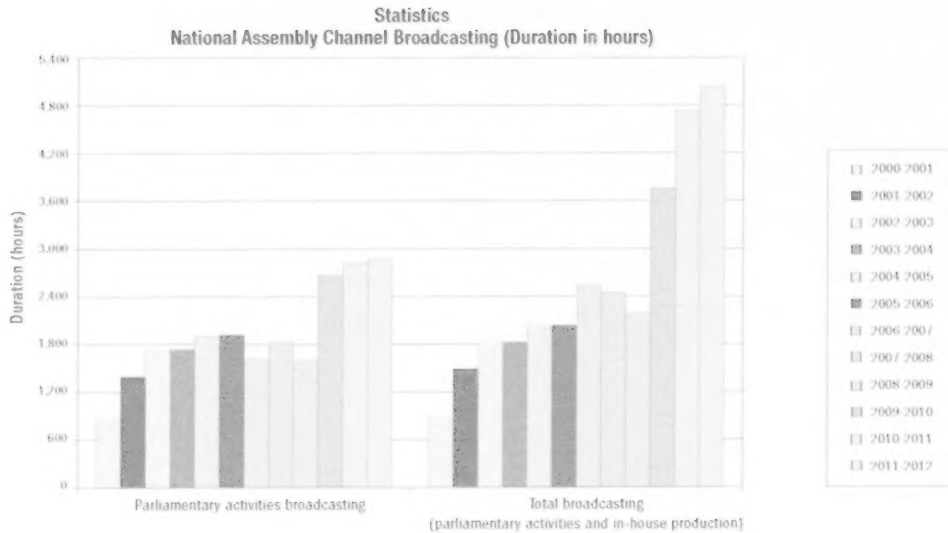
Information and multimedia

Broadcasting and webcasting

The National Assembly communicates information regarding its various activities on its television channel and on its website. These activities may be pre-recorded or are broadcast live on the National Assembly Channel and webcast on its Internet site.

Furthermore, a great number of these are archived on the Assembly website and are thus available to citizens at all times. Broadcasting is divided into two categories: parliamentary activities, which include parliamentary proceedings and press conferences, and in-house production, which includes particularly institutional promotion, as well as the *Mémoires de députés* and *Figures de la démocratie* televised series.

COVERAGE SERVICE		NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES	DURATION
Televised coverage		1,140	2,017 hr. 08 min.
Mobile recording		71	320 hr. 20 min.
Audio recording		182	452 hr. 05 min.
Digital recording, <i>Journal des débats</i> (Hansard)		1,142	2,032 hr. 06 min.
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHANNEL		NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES	DURATION
Parliamentary activities	Parliamentary proceedings	1,449	2,783 hr. 21 min.
	Press conferences	249	90 hr. 05 min.
In-house production	Institutional promotion	-	1,726 hr. 09 min.
	<i>Mémoires de députés</i> and <i>Figures de la démocratie</i>	-	399 hr. 18 min.
	Members' holiday greetings (Québec's national holiday and Christmas holidays)	-	45 hr. 21 min.
Total broadcast time			5,044 hr. 14 min.
Continuous electronic hosting			3,739 hr. 45 min.
Grand total			8,784 hr.



Mémoires de députés

The *Mémoires de députés* television series features interviews conducted by journalist Gilles Morin with former Members of the National Assembly. With sensitivity and a touch of humour, they recall the more memorable moments of their career and of Québec's history.

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the *Mémoires de députés* team worked on producing 40 new episodes. Of course, the success of this series would not be possible without the generous participation of former parliamentarians who share their experience in politics. The interviews presented on the National Assembly Channel this year featured Ms. Lise Payette, Messrs. André Harvey, Yves Duhaime, Normand Toupin, Claude Vaillancourt, Paul Phaneuf, Jean Curnoyer, Gilles Houde, Guy Joron, Yves Michaud, Guy Chevette, Clifford Lincoln and Matthias Rioux. These episodes are also available on the National Assembly website at the following address: assnat.qc.ca/memoires.

For the 6th season, the production team of *Mémoires de députés* worked at designing a new décor and visual signature. The series has offered this new perspective since January 2012.

Did you know?

The National Assembly is the only Canadian Parliament to transcribe and publish the transcripts of the parliamentary proceedings and press conferences. Each year, the *Journal des débats* (Hansard) publishes approximately 20,000 pages of parliamentary debates, or an average of 55 pages per day, every day of the year, which is similar to publishing a major daily newspaper such as *Le Soleil* or *La Presse*.



Figures de la démocratie

Figures de la démocratie is a television documentary series broadcast in 30-minute episodes presenting the exceptional people who have shaped the history and evolution of Québec democracy. Based on interviews, testimonies, archived material and reconstituted debates, these programs provide a wealth of information, anecdotes and revelations.

In 2011, two new programs were aired. On 27 May, a documentary on the political career of Paul Sauvé and his brief term as Leader of the Government, called "The 100-day revolution", was televised. The last episode of this series, dedicated to Eugène-Étienne Taché, was presented on 19 September. Taché, then Deputy Minister of Crown Land of the Province of Québec, was instructed to design what was to become his masterwork: the Parliament Building.

Promotion of institutional activities

The Assembly also produces several vignettes that are aired on its Channel to promote and make known its various institutional activities. These vignettes are also webcast on the Internet site of the Assembly.

Events such as the 18th General Assembly of the Québec-Ontario Parliamentary Association, the 6th Session of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee, the visit of the President of the Assembly of the Flemish Community Committee of the Brussels-Capital Region, the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures and the 2011 Entraide Campaign gave rise to special promotions. Vignettes were also produced for the celebrations of the 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building, the parliamentary simulations and the educational activities organized by the National Assembly.

Furthermore, institutional vignettes were produced for the award ceremonies of the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly as well as for the message of the President and of the First Vice-President of the National Assembly during the open house days for new Quebecers.

New Features on the National Assembly website



Viewer

Since September 2011, a news and events viewer on the homepage of the Assembly website has enabled better dissemination of parliamentary information, while boasting a user friendly, dynamic format. The slideshow is updated on a daily basis and presents headlines about the activities that take place at the Assembly as well as content on parliamentary life.



"Careers and Internships" section

The new "Careers and Internships" section was put online in March 2012 on the Assembly website. This section, which is available from the homepage, presents the National Assembly and the perks of working there. It also provides information on the positions available at the Assembly and in the Québec public service as well as on how to access them.

It is also possible to find out more about the several internship programs offered in the Assembly's varied areas of activity for high school, college and university

students. This new section may be consulted at the following address: assnat.qc.ca/carrieresetstages.

Electronic mosaic

An electronic mosaic was set up in the Visitors' Centre of the Parliament Building in March 2012. This interactive terminal, which has the same database as the Internet site and is automatically updated, provides information on the Members of the National Assembly. With a touch of the screen, visitors can consult files on each of the Members and find out more about the role they play.



Site visit statistics

In 2011-2012, close to **1.5 million** visits were recorded on the Internet site of the National Assembly.

HERITAGE

Documentary Heritage

Documentary management and archives

In 2011-2012, the Library personnel answered over 800 requests for information, regarding more particularly the loaning of semi-active files, the consultation of archival files and reference services. These requests also involved research for parliamentarians and their associates, the personnel of the National Assembly and agencies reporting to the Assembly and from elsewhere.

Some 9000 institutional archive files consisting mainly of bills (1906-1942) were processed, along with photo mosaics, graphic productions, etc. For the same period, almost 1,700 files and documents tabled in the Assembly during the 39th Legislature were also processed.



Portrait of
Louis-René
Chaussegros de Léry

The acquisition and promotion of heritage objects

Among the more interesting heritage objects acquired in 2011-2012 were several items offered by Mr. Marcel Masse, who held important offices in Québec, Canada and abroad. The National Assembly also accepted the donation of an oil on canvas from collector Charles Robert. It is the portrait of Louis-René Chaussegros de Léry, former legislative counsel and justice of the peace. This portrait is the work of Gerritt Schipper and represents typical Canadian school art from the early 19th century.

Furthermore, the National Assembly acquired the Yves Beauregard collection. The first part of this collection is composed mainly of various collectors' items: ceramics, postcards and historical photographs illustrating the Parliament Building. The other part constitutes one of the most extensive private collections of medals having belonged to lieutenant-governors of Québec, governor generals of Canada and superintendents of public instruction in Québec.

Did you know?

The Library is responsible for the management and preservation of the administrative archives of the Assembly as well as for the purchasing, preservation and dissemination of the archival fonds and private archive collections of Members and senior government officials of the Assembly, in relation to the parliamentary heritage of Québec.

Did you know?

The National Assembly archives contain close to 2 kilometres of text documents and approximately 6000 boxes of institutional and private archives. With a view to disseminating the parliamentary memory of Québec, the Assembly allows all citizens to consult these archives or to obtain reproductions of the documents contained in the fonds and archive collections.

Publication of the volumes of the Legislative Assembly's reconstituted debates

Before the *Journal des débats* (Hansard) began publishing in 1964, no compilations of the parliamentary debates existed in Québec. To redress this situation, the National Assembly decided to reconstitute the debates prior to 1963.

In addition to the texts of the debates that took place in the Legislative Assembly, these documents provide a historical introduction that includes the milestones and main themes of the session, an analysis of the newspapers and sources used to reconstitute the debates, as well as a bibliography.

During 2011-2012, the Library of the National Assembly finished reconstituting the debates of several sessions of the Legislative Assembly:

- 1925 (16th Legislature, 2nd Session)
- 1930-1931 (17th Legislature, 4th Session)
- 1947 (22nd Legislature, 3rd session)
- 1950 (23rd Legislature, 2nd session)
- 1959-1960 (25th Legislature, 4th session)
- 1960-1961 (26th Legislature, 2nd session)
- 1962 (26th Legislature, 3rd session)

Architectural and Urban Heritage

Restoration of the André-Laurendeau Building cornice

The Building Management and Material Resources Directorate must ensure that the buildings under the National Assembly's responsibility are in a good state of preservation. In 2011, the directorate began restoring the stone finish of the monumental dormers and the "artificial stone" components of the André-Laurendeau Building cornice.

This restoration work, which was the first of its kind to be carried out since 1936, gave rise to a spectacular construction site set up between earth and sky. When finished, over 80 % of the cornice's components had been reconstructed. It should be noted that the templates had to be rebuilt and then moulded in order to pour concrete and recreate the original forms. The entire project was coordinated by the Assembly with the support of an outside firm of architects.



The André-Laurendeau Building cornice after its restoration

Redesigning of the subcommittee rooms

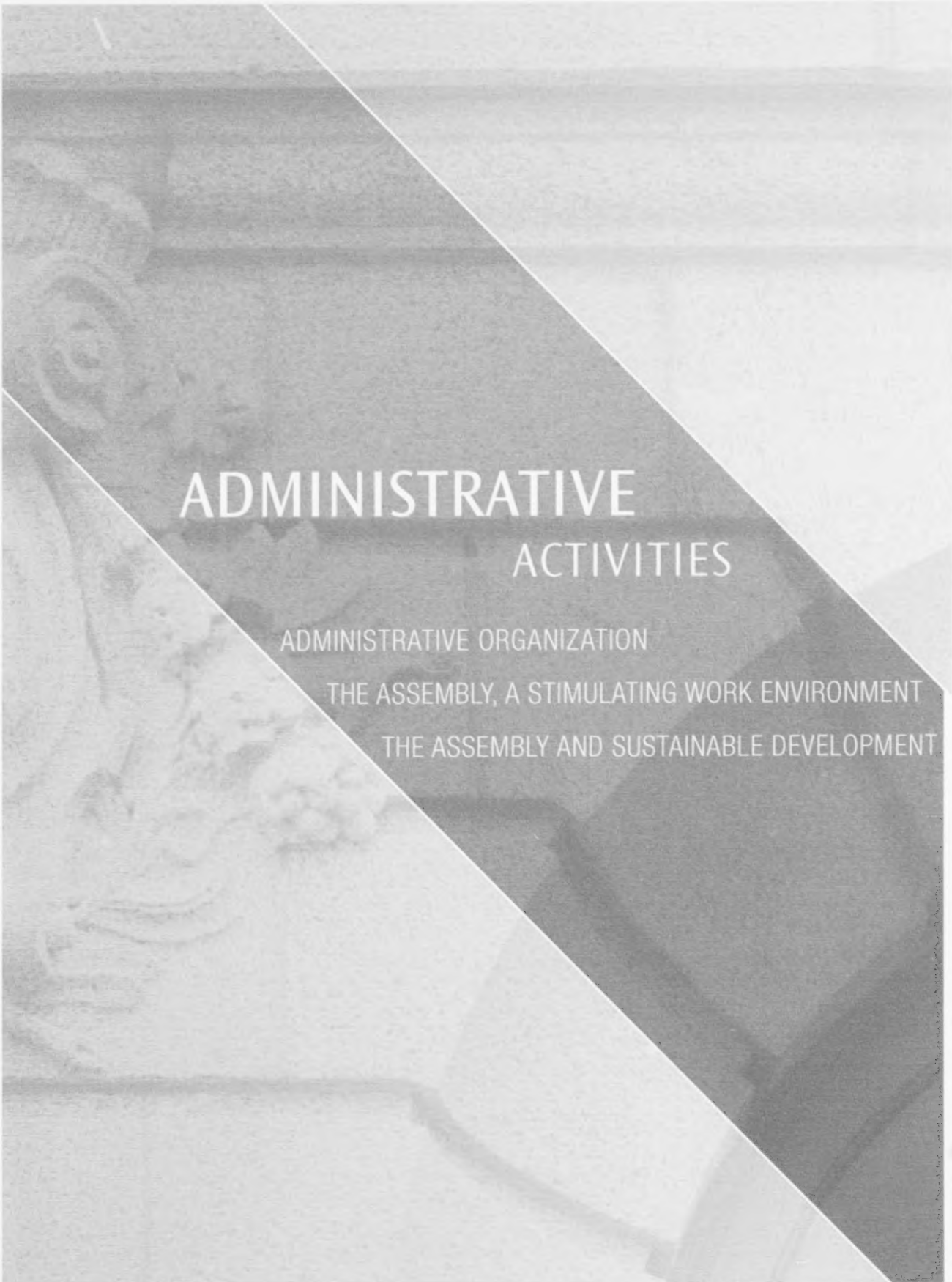
The subcommittee rooms were renovated and equipped in 1983. In recent years, the evolution and emergence of new technologies have enabled parliamentarians to explore and experiment with other ways of consulting citizens and carrying out parliamentary work.



Redesigned subcommittee room

The current technological possibilities thus led the Assembly to analyze the computer, telephone and electrical needs in order to redesign and modernize the two rooms located on the ground floor of the Parliament Building. This redevelopment was intended to accommodate the new reality of the work of parliamentarians.

Consequently, multimedia equipment was permanently installed and communications modules enabling simultaneous projection in both rooms were integrated into the work tables. Moreover, both rooms are now fitted with the necessary facilities for the various presentations made during the Assembly's special and specific activities. Storage spaces have been completely redesigned and adapted to the new requirements. The tables have been restored, and the walls and mouldings have been repainted.



ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

THE ASSEMBLY, A STIMULATING WORK ENVIRONMENT

THE ASSEMBLY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Changes in the administrative structure

The administrative structure underwent major changes in 2011-2012, which were aimed at:

- Regrouping similar services to improve the provision of services to parliamentarians and the population;
- Creating a new synergy within these directorates for the benefit of the employees;
- Generating recurrent savings by reducing the number of management positions.

Thus, on 21 April 2011, the responsibility of material resources was transferred to the new Building Management and Material Resources Directorate, the secretariat of the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant was integrated into the new Education in Parliamentary Democracy Directorate, and the responsibility of telecommunications was transferred to the new Computer Services and Telecommunications Directorate.

Subsequently, on 22 September 2011, the Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate was merged with the Procedure and Parliamentary Affairs Directorate to create the new General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. The Committees Secretariat and that of the Assembly were merged to form the new Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate and new administrative responsibilities were given to the Associate Secretary General for Administration.

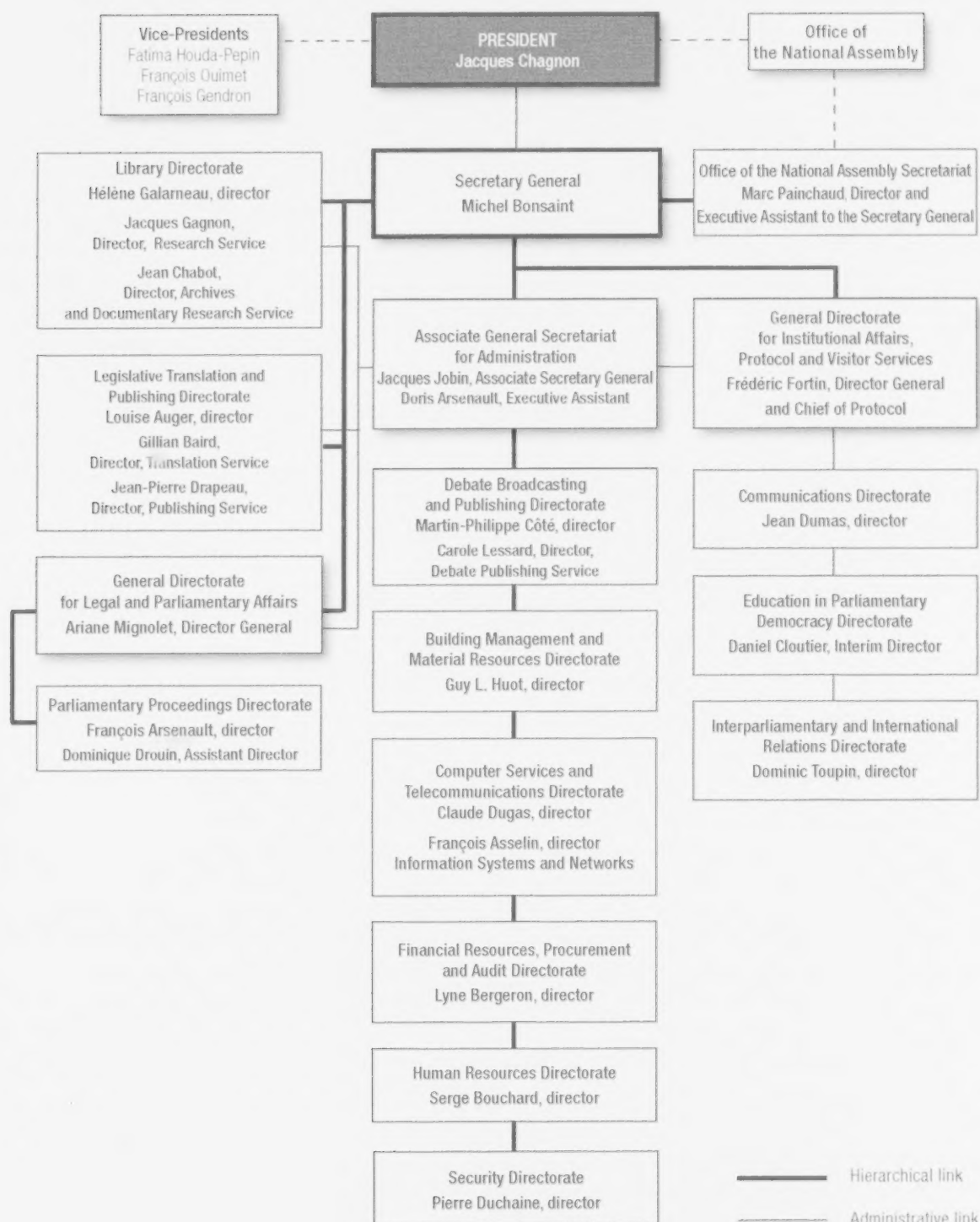
Personnel

Staff

To carry out its mission, the National Assembly has an administrative staff of 610 people, comprising 537 regular and 73 casual positions. Its political staff of executive assistants, political aides and advisors and support staff totals 532 people, divided between Parliament Hill and Members' riding offices.

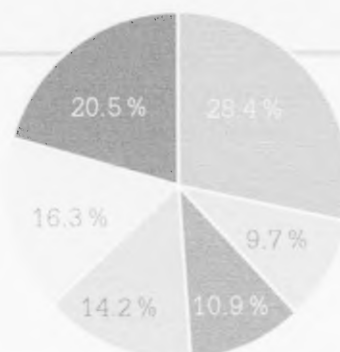
In 2011-2012, the National Assembly hired more than 25 interns and 30 students to promote the institution as an employer of choice and to offer future workers the possibility of experiencing the National Assembly workplace firsthand.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AS AT 31 MARCH 2012



Administrative Staff by Age Group

■ 35 and under.....	28.4 %
■ 36 - 40	9.7 %
■ 41 - 45	10.9 %
■ 46 - 50	14.2 %
■ 51 - 55	16.3 %
■ 56 and over	20.5 %



A quarter century of commitment

On 8 December 2011, a ceremony was held in the company of the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, and several other guests to celebrate the dedication of staff who have worked for the Québec National Assembly or as public servants for 25 years. Mmes. Nicole Bolduc, Marthe Cameron, Christiane Côté, Diane Dorais, Diane Guay, Kathleen Johnston, Céline Létourneau, Madeleine Lévesque, Chantale Martineau and Suzie Poulin, as well as Messrs. Christian Croft, Danny Hayfield, Martin Jeffrey, Claude Jeffrey, Gilles Pageau and Gaétan Sélesse were all honoured at the event. Special recognition was also given to Ms. Christiane Savoie, for her forty years of service at the National Assembly.



Left to right: Messrs. Martin Jeffrey, Gaétan Sélesse, Claude Jeffrey, Mmes. Diane Guay, Chantale Martineau, Mr. Christian Croft, Mmes. Céline Létourneau, Suzie Poulin, Kathleen Johnston, Christiane Côté, Diane Dorais, Mérédith Morin and Mr. Gilles Pageau.

Administrative Staff by Employment Category

Executives	5.2 %
Professionals	26.9 %
Public servants	47.1 %
Workers	11.3 %
Peace officers	6.5 %
Others	3.0 %

Gender distribution

Women	52 %
Men	48 %



Left to right:
Mr. Jean Dumas, Director
of Communications,
Mr. Jacques Chagnon,
President of the National
Assembly, Ms. Manon Paré
and Mr. Jean-Philippe
Laprise, members of the
Communications Directorate
of the Assembly

15th Zénith Awards of the Forum des responsables des communications

The National Assembly was a finalist in four categories in the 15th Zénith Awards of the Forum des responsables des communications. It won the 2011 Zénith Award in the Graphic Design category, for the design created for the Select Committee on Dying With Dignity.

Professional development and training

The National Assembly offered training sessions to its employees in sectors particular to its mission. These sessions were given by staff members working at parliamentary procedure and the standing committees.

A training session on parliamentary procedure was given on three occasions to 60 employees, for a total of 180. Furthermore, 73 persons attended either one of the two training sessions on standing committee work.

Calendrier des formations

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	DATE	DURATION
Training on parliamentary procedure	2011-06-14	1 day
Training on parliamentary procedure	2011-06-21	1 day
Training on parliamentary procedure	2011-12-13	1 day
Training on standing committees	2012-02-08	3 hours
Training on standing committees	2012-03-14	3 hours

Training program for jurists at the National Assembly

Since 2009, all members of the Québec Bar Association must undergo at least 30 hours of training per two-year period. These sessions allow members to acquire, maintain, update, improve and broaden the professional skills related to exercising the profession.

To contribute to aiding employees who are members of the Bar to fulfill this obligation, the Assembly continued its Programme de formation en milieu de travail. The following is a brief overview of the training sessions that were offered in 2011-2012 and which totalled eighteen hours:

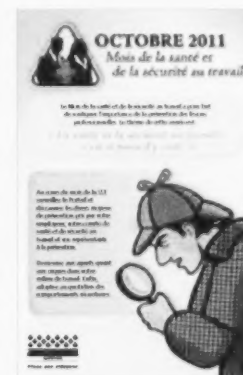
TITLE OF ACTIVITY	DATE	DURATION
Greater accountability or immunity of corporate directors: what do we understand from the regulation messages?	2011-04-19	3 hours
The governance of Crown corporations	2011-05-03	3 hours
Québec's new Business Corporations Act	2011-05-17	3 hours
Ethics and Conduct	2011-10-25	3 hours
Parliamentary committees	2011-11-15	3 hours
The Québec Parental Insurance Plan	2012-02-21	3 hours

On average, approximately 25 participants attended these training sessions. The Assembly aims to offer 40 hours of training per two-year period. Some twenty hours of training will thus be given in the coming year in order to reach this objective.

The Assembly, A Stimulating Work Environment

Health

The National Assembly's occupational health and safety policies and practices support the well-being of its employees in their professional environment. In substance, this intention is reflected in the production and broadcasting of information on various themes, as well as the organization of conferences. The topics addressed are recurring and activities vary each year. All of these activities aim to increase the well-being and satisfaction of staff members in their work environment.



In 2011-2012, the Assembly broadcast information and organized activities with regard to the following events:

- Cancer Awareness Month (April 2011);
- Mental Health Month (May 2011);
- Health and Safety Month (October 2011);
- Québec Tobacco-Free Week (15 to 21 January 2012);
- Nutrition Month (March 2012).

Four lunch-hour conferences were organized and three information bulletins were also published.

The Comité paritaire de santé et sécurité au travail was a finalist in the 2011 Gala Méritas of the Association paritaire pour la santé et la sécurité du travail and in the Prix innovation de la CSST 2011 in the public bodies category for the creation of its ergonomic trailer with gates.



Use of appropriations allocated to the National Assembly in 2011-2012

	Appropriations used* (\$ Thousands)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees**	Casual employees**
GENERAL SECRETARIAT			
Office of the Secretary General	1,885.2	11	0
Library Directorate	5,263.8	76	2
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	461.2	17	0
	7,610.2	104	2
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS			
General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	923.1	12	0
Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate	1,835.1	29	4
Select Committee on Dying With Dignity	219.1	0	0
	2,977.3	41	4
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, PROTOCOL AND VISITOR SERVICES			
General Directorate for Institutional Affairs, Protocol and Visitor Services	3,402.4	38	5
Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate	2,178.3	23	0
Communications Directorate	1,283.5	20	1
Education in Parliamentary Democracy Directorate	771.9	10	0
	7,636.1	91	6
ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION			
Associate General Secretariat for Administration	1,077.2	4	0
Restaurants	1,566.3	6	13
Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate	4,920.6	56	30
Building Management and Material Resources Directorate	12,519.0	59	3
Computer Services and Telecommunications Directorate	5,500.3	50	0
Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,303.2	26	0
Human Resources Directorate	9,991.8	27	2
Security Directorate	4,234.9	73	13
	41,113.3	301	61
STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARLIAMENTARIANS	57,049.8		
FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION	4,980.9		
APPROPRIATIONS USED	121,367.6	537	73

* The appropriations used include fixed assets, salaries, operations, advances and transfers.

** Authorized FTEs (full time equivalents)



Furthermore, on 28 September 2011, 37 staff members of the Assembly generously donated blood at the Héma-Québec Blood Drive. Finally, on 27 October 2011, the annual influenza vaccination campaign was held at the National Assembly. On this occasion, 122 employees were given a flu shot.



Entraide campaign

The Entraide Campaign is a vast movement of solidarity and constitutes an invaluable demonstration of the generosity of government employees. During this annual campaign, current and retired public service employees are asked to help persons living in vulnerable situations.

Once again, the National Assembly's Entraide Committee invited the administrative and political staff to take part in several fund-raising activities in 2011-2012. The campaign was launched with a reopening of session dinner in the company of its honorary president, Mr. Jacques Chagnon. Subsequently, several activities were held. Employees enthusiastically prepared delicious desserts that were sold during an auction. This activity alone helped raise over \$1000.

A total of \$47,483 was collected. The National Assembly is pleased to note that participation remains an important value and that staff members are committed to donating and helping, as has been the case for over 40 years. As the spokesperson for the campaign, Mr. Fred Pellerin so aptly puts it: "Giving is rooted in our tradition!"



The Assembly and Sustainable Development

Report on the characterization of residual materials

The National Assembly established its own Sustainable Development Action Plan in 2009. In keeping with the various targets set forth therein, the Assembly mandated NI Environnement to carry out the characterization of the residual materials generated, recovered and disposed of in the five Assembly buildings. A report presented in October 2011 by this corporation assesses the National Assembly's results with respect to the 2011-2015 Action Plan of the Québec Residual Materials Management Policy and indicates that they are excellent. The remarkable performance of the Assembly is worthy of mention, as its recovery of paper, cardboard and glass exceeds the targets that had previously been set.



Electric vehicle

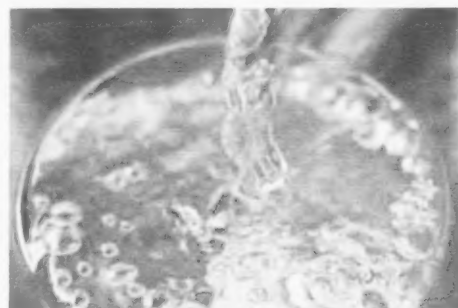
In May 2011, the National Assembly acquired a vehicle that runs solely on electric power. This light-weight vehicle is mainly used by the persons responsible for the upkeep of the Assembly premises and is useful in transporting various horticultural equipment around plants beds and maintenance areas. Furthermore, the small size of the vehicle allows it move around areas that are inaccessible to conventional vehicles.

Lighting control

In 2011-2012, the National Assembly continued replacing various types of energy-consuming light bulbs with LED lamps (light emitting diodes). These lamps, in addition to maximizing energy savings, have a much longer lifetime than conventional light bulbs. Lighting management systems were also installed in all of the National Assembly buildings to program and control the reduction or complete shutdown of lighting in different areas of the buildings according to a predetermined schedule.

Reduction in water consumption

In 2010, the Assembly set an objective to reduce water consumption and make better use of this resource. It therefore replaced all of the taps and flushing systems with more efficient sanitary equipment designed to improve water flow control. This effort continued in 2011-2012 and 75 % of the work has been completed. The new sanitary equipment has made it possible to save a considerable amount of water while complying with higher standards of hygiene.



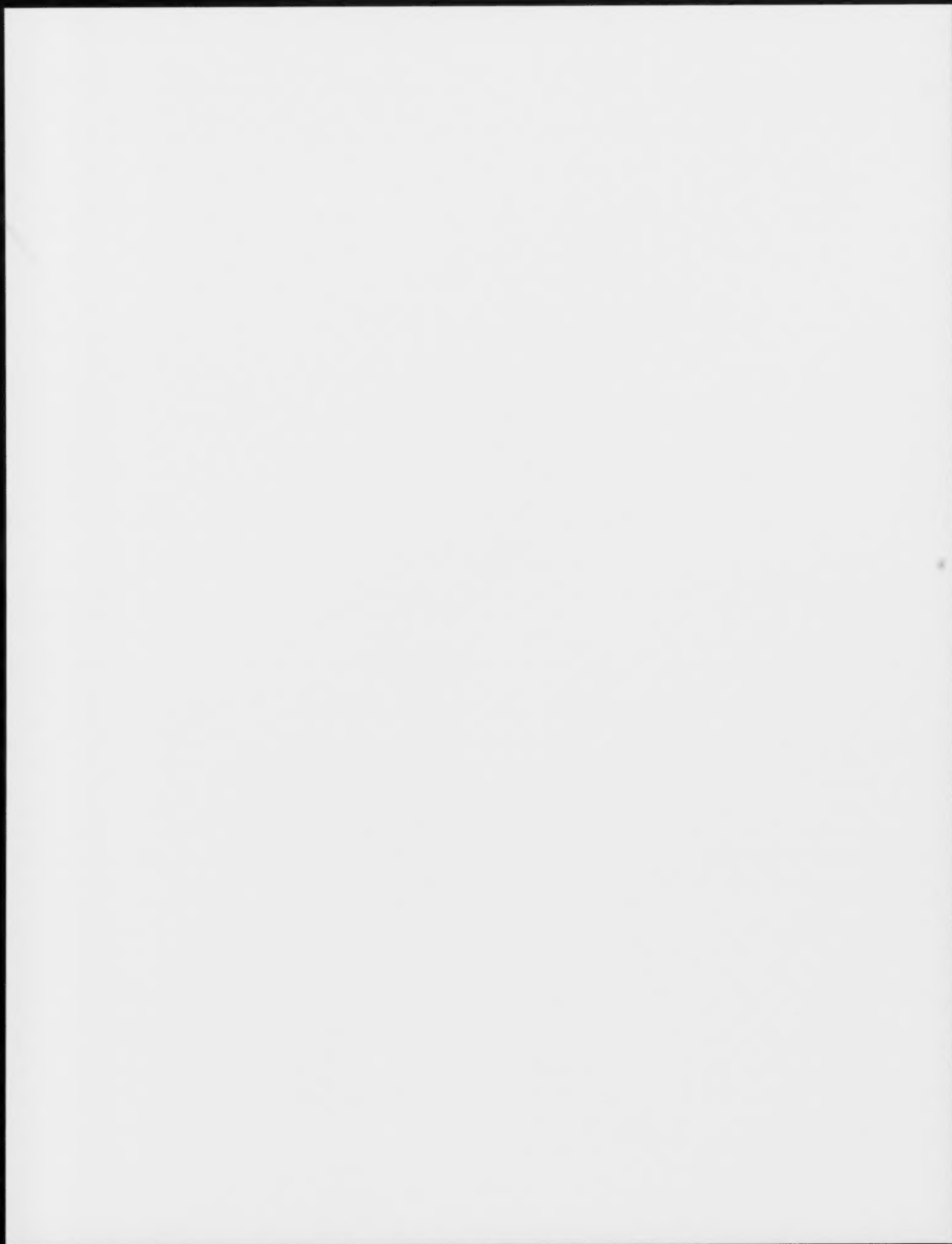
Sustainable development survey

In summer 2011, the Assembly carried out a survey to get a better understanding of the personnel's views on its sustainable development approach. This tool also helped evaluate to what extent the infrastructures put in place by the Assembly foster participation in physical activities and the use of alternative methods of transportation.

Results indicate that 57 % of respondents use public transportation to get to work. As regards active transportation, 4 % of respondents say they travel to work on bicycle and 15 % walk. At the same time, the majority of respondents (77 %) consider that the Assembly infrastructures encourage the use of public transportation and active transportation. It should be particularly noted that the Assembly provides shower facilities and bicycle racks to its staff members. It also offers them the possibility of buying an annual transit pass.

Within the framework of the U.N. International Year of Forests, on 23 August 2011, the Assembly organized the "From the forest to your plate" activity. The purpose of this activity was to increase the Assembly staff's awareness of the issues surrounding Québec forests and their development. More specifically, it aimed to give staff the opportunity to discover sustainable farms from various regions, through the presentation and sampling of non-timber forest products.





BILLS PASSED

39th Legislature – 2nd Session (1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012)

CNA:	Committee on the National Assembly	CLE:	Committee on Labour and the Economy
CPA:	Committee on Public Administration	CPF:	Committee on Public Finance
CAFENR:	Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources	CI:	Committee on Institutions
CPP:	Committee on Planning and the Public Domain	CCR:	Committee on Citizen Relations
CCE:	Committee on Culture and Education	CHSS:	Committee on Health and Social Services
		CTE:	Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Government bills (passed)

2	CTE	An Act respecting the construction of a section of Highway 73 from Beauceville to Saint-Georges (passed on division) (Vote: Yeas: 66; Nays: 44; Abstentions: 0)
3	CTE	An Act to promote safe school transportation and to better regulate bulk trucking brokerage (passed unanimously)
5	CPF	An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions (passed on division)
6	CPF	Unclaimed Property Act (passed unanimously)
7	CPF	An Act to amend various legislative provisions mainly concerning the financial sector (modified title) (passed unanimously)
8	CPF	Appropriation Act No. 2, 2011-2012 (passed on division) (Vote: Yeas: 59; Nays: 47; Abstentions: 0)
9	CI	An Act to enhance the regulation of the verification carried out for licence purposes and otherwise amend the Private Security Act (passed unanimously)
10	CPF	An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 17 March 2011 and the enactment of the Act to establish the Northern Plan Fund (passed on division)

- | | | |
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| 11 | CLE | An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act and to provide for the possibility of opting to receive a pension paid by the Régie des rentes du Québec during the existence of certain plans in the pulp and paper sector (passed unanimously) |
| 13 | CPP | An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (passed unanimously) |
| 15 | CI | Anti-Corruption Act (passed unanimously) |
| 16 | CHSS | An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning health and social services in order, in particular, to tighten up the certification process for private seniors' residences (modified title) (passed unanimously) |
| 17 | CI | An Act to provide for the implementation of special plans concerning employment injuries and occupational health and safety as well as labour relations, vocational training and workforce management in the construction industry (modified title) (passed unanimously) |
| 18 | CAFENR | An Act to limit oil and gas activities (passed unanimously) |
| 21 | CAFENR | An Act to amend the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products (passed on division) |
| 22 | CPP | An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards the resiliation of a dwelling lease in certain cases (passed unanimously) |
| 23 | CPF | An Act to amend various pension plans in the public sector (passed on division) |
| 25 | CCR | An Act to prohibit the resale of tickets at a price above that authorized by the producer of the event (modified title) (passed unanimously) |
| 28 | CLE | An Act to amend the Act respecting the implementation of the Agreement on Internal Trade (passed unanimously) |
| 30 | CPP | An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (passed unanimously) |
| 32 | CPF | An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 17 March 2011 and amending various legislative provisions (modified title) (passed on division) |
| 33 | CLE | An Act to eliminate union placement and improve the operation of the construction industry (passed unanimously)
(Vote: Yeas: 99; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 0) |
| 35 | CLE | An Act to prevent, combat and punish certain fraudulent practices in the construction industry and make other amendments to the Building Act (passed unanimously)
(Vote: Yeas: 111; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 0) |

- | | | |
|-----|------|--|
| 39 | CPF | An Act to amend the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan and other legislative provisions (passed unanimously) |
| 40 | CI | An Act to repeal the Act to ensure the continuity of the provision of legal services within the Government and certain public bodies and to amend the Act respecting the collective bargaining plan of criminal and penal prosecuting attorneys (passed unanimously) (autumn 2011) |
| 41 | CHSS | An Act to amend the Pharmacy Act (passed unanimously)
(Vote: Yeas: 111; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 0) |
| 42 | CPF | An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act in order to extend certain measures to reduce the effects of the 2008 financial crisis on plans covered by the Act (passed unanimously) |
| 54 | CPF | An Act respecting the sectoral parameters of certain fiscal measures (passed unanimously) |
| 82 | CCE | Cultural Heritage Act (passed unanimously)
(Vote: Yeas: 112; Nays: 0; Abstentions: 0) |
| 88 | CTE | An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act as regards residual materials management and to amend the Regulation respecting compensation for municipal services provided to recover and reclaim residual materials (passed unanimously) |
| 89 | CTE | An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act in order to reinforce compliance (passed unanimously) |
| 119 | CI | An Act respecting the election process (passed unanimously) |
| 120 | CI | An Act respecting political party leadership campaigns (passed unanimously) |
| 127 | CHSS | An Act to improve the management of the health and social services network (passed on division) |
| 130 | CPF | An Act to abolish the Ministère des Services gouvernementaux and to implement the Government's 2010-2014 Action Plan to Reduce and Control Expenditures by abolishing or restructuring certain bodies and certain funds (modified title) (passed on division) |
| 133 | CPF | An Act respecting the governance and management of the information resources of public bodies and government enterprises (passed unanimously) |

Government bills at the stage of the tabling of the consultation report

- | | | |
|----|------|---|
| 31 | CI | An Act to amend various provisions concerning the organization of police services (special consultations) |
| 38 | CCE | An Act to amend the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level and the Act respecting the Université du Québec with respect to governance (general consultation) |
| 46 | CI | An Act respecting independent police investigations (special consultations) |
| 55 | CHSS | An Act respecting the professional recognition of medical electrophysiology technologists (special consultations) |

Government bills referred to the committees for the holding of special consultations

- | | | |
|----|-----|---|
| 56 | CCE | An Act to prevent and deal with bullying and violence in schools (special consultations) |
| 57 | CTE | An Act to modify the rules governing the use of photo radar devices and red light camera systems and amend other legislative provisions (special consultations) |

Government bills at the stage of the tabling of the report on the clause-by-clause consideration in committee

- | | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 29 | CI | An Act to establish the Access to Justice Fund |
| 34 | CPP | An Act to ensure the occupancy and vitality of territories |
| 43 | CI | An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and other legislative provisions |

Government bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee

- | | | |
|----|--------|--|
| 14 | CAFENR | An Act respecting the development of mineral resources in keeping with the principles of sustainable development |
| 24 | CCR | An Act mainly to combat consumer debt overload and modernize consumer credit rules |
| 27 | CAFENR | An Act respecting the Société du Plan Nord |
| 44 | CCE | An Act to amend the General and Vocational Colleges Act with respect to governance |
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- | | | |
|----|--------|--|
| 50 | CAFENR | An Act to amend the Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses |
| 53 | CHSS | An Act to dissolve the Société de gestion informatique SOGIQUE |
| 58 | CPF | An Act to amend the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Management Personnel and other legislative provisions |
| 94 | CI | An Act to establish guidelines governing accommodation requests within the Administration and certain institutions |

Government bills at the stage of introduction

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 4 | An Act to allow municipalities to grant a tax credit to certain owners of residential immovables affected by a significantly higher than average increase in value | |
| 19 | An Act to establish a temporary electoral representation regime and to suspend certain provisions of the Election Act | |
| 36 | An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services as regards joint procurement | |
| 37 | An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards land registration | |
| 45 | An Act to amend the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Public Curator Act as regards the protection of persons | |
| 47 | Sustainable Regional and Local Land Use Planning Act | |
| 48 | An Act concerning the environmental inspection of motor vehicles | |
| 51 | An Act to amend the Animal Health Protection Act mainly in regard to animal safety and welfare | |
| 59 | An Act respecting the sharing of certain health information | |
| 61 | Chartered Professional Accountants Act | |

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- | | |
|-----|--|
| 190 | An Act to provide a framework for appointments to certain senior positions |
| 191 | An Act to amend the Auditor General Act |

- 192 An Act to amend the Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities in order to bring the excluded lands back within the boundaries of the park
- 193 An Act to amend the Transport Act
- 194 An Act to amend the Health Insurance Act
- 195 An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information
- 196 Québec Public Sector Employees Disclosure Protection Act
- 197 An Act to amend the Auditor General Act in order to allow comprehensive auditing of Hydro-Québec
- 198 An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws
- 391 An Act to assert the fundamental values of the Québec nation
- 393 An Act to amend the Public Administration Act to require government departments and bodies to publish monthly reports of their expenditures
- 394 An Act respecting the Agence québécoise du cancer
- 395 An Act to govern the accessibility and universality of health services in Québec
- 396 An Act to put a temporary stop to shale gas exploration and development activities
- 397 An Act to impose a moratorium on shale gas exploration and development projects
- 398 An Act to end the precedence of mining rights over other land uses and to again amend the Act respecting land use planning and development
- 399 An Act to modernize the provisions relating to strikebreakers and to again amend the Labour Code
- 490 An Act respecting the greater use of wood in construction
- 491 An Act to prohibit asbestos and uranium exploration and mining in Québec
- 492 An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly
- 493 Recall Act
- 494 An Act to amend the Act respecting the remuneration of elected municipal officers

- 495 An Act respecting transparency in union matters and amending various legislative provisions
- 496 An Act to provide a fixed date for the election of Members of the National Assembly as of 13 May 2013
- 497 An Act to change the name of the electoral division of Verchères
- 498 Mandatory Reporting of Child Pornography Act
- 499 An Act respecting dynamic land occupancy and decentralization
- 590 An Act to abolish the requirement of legal representation before the Commission d'accès à l'information
- 591 An Act to confirm the application of the Charter of the French language to government agency subsidiaries
- 593 Québec Charter of the French Language

Private bills (passed)

- 200 CI An Act respecting Marie Alice Elisabeth Hélène Lacroix (passed unanimously)
- 201 CPP An Act respecting the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec Augustinian monastery (passed unanimously)
- 202 CPP An Act respecting the Régie intermunicipale du secteur Nord de Lac-Saint-Jean Est (passed unanimously)
- 204 CPP An Act concerning the proposed multi-functional amphitheatre of Ville de Québec (passed on division)
(Vote: Yeas: 98; Nays: 14; Abstentions: 5)
- 207 CAFENR An Act to amend the Act to establish the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (passed unanimously)
- 209 CPF An Act respecting Rosemère Curling Club Inc. (passed unanimously)

Private bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee

203	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté de Memphrémagog
205	CI	An Act respecting certain deeds of donation by Samuel Bronfman
229	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Salaberry-de-Valleyfield

ORDERS CARRIED OUT BY THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies concerning:

- Examination of the 2009-2010 annual report of Services Québec and of the independent report on the application of the Act respecting Services Québec
- The watch concerning the Québec Health Record (Report of the Auditor General 2010-2011, Volume I, Chapter 5, and Volume II, Chapter 3)
- Follow-up on the Committee's 24th report on the management of contracts presenting risk situations at the Ministère des Transports
- Educational childcare (Report of the Auditor General, Autumn 2011, Chapter 5)
- Application of the Sustainable Development Act (Report of the Auditor General 2010-2011, Report of the Sustainable Development Commissioner, Chapter 5)
- Compensation to accident victims (Report of the Auditor General, Autumn 2011, Chapter 6)

Other orders:

- Hearing with Mr. Jacques Duchesneau, head of the Anti-Collusion Unit of the Ministère des Transports, on his report
- Hearing with the Auditor General on his annual management report and his financial commitments for 2010-2011

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills 1 private bill

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 14, An Act respecting the development of mineral resources in keeping with the principles of sustainable development
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 18, An Act to limit oil and gas activities

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure for 2011-2012**Interpellations:**

- The price of gasoline in Québec
- The agriculture crisis in Québec
- The forestry companies and workers of Québec
- The Gentilly-2 nuclear power station
- Agriculture in Québec

Other order:

- General consultation on the green paper for an agrifood policy entitled "Donner le goût du Québec".

Surveillance of agencies and accountability:

- La Financière agricole du Québec

Orders of initiative:

- Oil supply security

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills 3 private bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 22, An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards the resiliation of a dwelling lease in certain cases
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 30, An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 34, An Act to ensure the occupancy and vitality of territories

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure for 2011-2012**Other order:**

- General consultation on the draft bill entitled Sustainable Regional and Local Land Use Planning Act

Surveillance of agencies and accountability:

- Commission municipale du Québec
-

Examination of petitions

- Housing overcrowding in Nunavik

Committee on Culture and Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 1 public bill

Consultation:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 56, An Act to prevent and deal with bullying and violence in schools

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure for 2011-2012**Interpellations:**

- The administration and financing of the elementary, secondary and vocational public education network
- The increase in tuition fees imposed by the Liberal government in 2012
- The situation of French in Québec
- The Charter of the French Language

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee vice-chair
- Examine the 2009-2012 strategic plan, the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Société de télédiffusion du Québec
- Examine the 2009-2012 strategic plan, the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
- Election of the Committee vice-chair

Examination of petitions:

- The fight against bullying in schools

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 11, An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act and to provide for the possibility of opting to receive a pension paid by the Régie des rentes du Québec during the existence of certain plans in the pulp and paper sector
-

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 33, An Act to eliminate union placement and improve the operation of the construction industry
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 35, An Act to prevent, combat and punish certain fraudulent practices in the construction industry and make other amendments to the Building Act

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure for 2011-2012

Interpellation:

- The modernization of the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CSST)

Surveillance of agencies and accountability:

- Régie des installations olympiques
- Commission des partenaires du marché du travail and examination of the financial statements and annual reports for 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 of the Fonds de développement et de reconnaissance des compétences de la main-d'œuvre

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee chair
- Examination of the report tabled by the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, in pursuance of section 60 of the Act to combat poverty and social exclusion

Examination of petitions:

- Abolition of certain penalties concerning accident victims and victims of work-related diseases and the request to abolish the Bureau d'évaluation médicale

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 11 public bills 1 private bill

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 7, An Act to amend various legislative provisions mainly concerning the financial sector (modified title)
 - Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 23, An Act to amend various pension plans in the public sector
 - Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 58, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Management Personnel and other legislative provisions
 - Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 133, An Act respecting the governance and management of the information resources of public bodies and government enterprises
-

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure for 2011-2012

Interpellation:

- The future of pension plans

Other orders:

- Continuation of the debate on the 2010-2011 Budget Speech
- Continuation of the debate on the 2011-2012 Budget Speech

Order of initiative:

- Examination of the measures to counter the consumption of contraband tobacco

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 9 public bills 1 private bill

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 9, An Act to enhance the regulation of the verification carried out for licence purposes and otherwise amend the Private Security Act
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 29, An Act to establish the Access to Justice Fund
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 31, An Act to amend various provisions concerning the organization of police services
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 46, An Act respecting independent police investigations

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure for 2011-2012

Interpellations:

- The consequences of the Canadian Government's decisions for Québec
- The situation of the Haut-Richelieu flood victims

Surveillance of agencies and accountability:

- Commission des services juridiques

Other orders:

- General consultation on the Draft bill to enact the new Code of Civil Procedure
 - The Public Protector
-

Orders of initiative:

- Hear Mr. Pierre Marc Johnson, Québec's head negotiator within the framework of negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union

Committee on Citizen Relations

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 24, An Act mainly to combat consumer debt overload and modernize consumer credit rules
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 25, An Act to prohibit the resale of tickets at a price above that authorized by the producer of the event (*modified title*)

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure for 2011-2012**Interpellations:**

- Secularism and gender equality
- The situation of seniors in Québec

Other order:

- General consultation on immigration planning in Québec for 2012-2015

Committee on Health and Social Services

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 16, An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning health and social services in order, in particular, to tighten up the certification process for private seniors' residences (*modified title*)
 - Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 41, An Act to amend the Pharmacy Act
 - Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 55, An Act respecting the professional recognition of medical electrophysiology technologists
-

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure for 2011-2012

Interpellation:

- Québec's prescription drug policy

Orders of initiative:

- Hold public hearings to hear the Minister for Social Services, the Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec and the Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes du Québec, within the framework of the follow-up to the order of initiative on homelessness.

Examination of petitions:

- Midwifery
- Skin cancer and artificial tanning

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee vice-chair
- Hearing with the Montréal, Laval and Lanaudière Health and Social Services Agencies within the framework of the examination their annual management reports from 2005-2006 to 2009-2010
- Hearing with the Laurentides and Montérégie Health and Social Services Agencies within the framework of the examination their annual management reports from 2006-2007 to 2009-2010
- Examination of the reports on the implementation of the Tobacco Act, 2005-2010

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills

Consultation:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 2, An Act respecting the construction of a section of Highway 73 from Beauceville to Saint-Georges

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure for 2011-2012

Other order:

- Examination of the report on the evaluation of the pilot project on photo radar devices and red light camera systems
-

Allowances granted to Members in 2011-2012

WAGE BILL OF MEMBERS:

Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	\$12,228,884
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OTHER ALLOWANCES:

Allowances for expenses, attendance and allowances for political activities	\$3,084,251
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)	\$361,987
Travel from electoral division to the Parliament Building	\$1,124,103
Lodging in or around Québec City	\$1,545,301
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture and office equipment during the first term of office	\$20,787
Electoral division office operation expenses	\$5,442,412

OTHER EXPENSES

	Members' staff	Parliamentary office holders' staff	Total
Wage bill	\$13,563,177	\$6,680,011	\$20,243,188
Travel expenses	\$421,735	\$490,930	\$912,665
Research services of political parties			\$2,300,298

MANDATES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCHES

The **Secretary General** is the highest-ranking public servant of the National Assembly and chief advisor to the President and Members in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, administers day-to-day affairs and carries out all other duties assigned to him or her by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

The **Office Secretariat Directorate** organizes and follows up on the work of the Office and provides Members with information on their working conditions and the services available to them. It also assists the Secretary General in the day-to-day running of his office and coordinates and carries out mandates and projects for the Assembly.

The **Library Directorate** is responsible for the preservation of parliamentary documents and management of archival material and facilitates their retrieval. It maintains a collection meeting the needs of current and future users. It offers various reference, press documentation and research services to parliamentarians and the administrative units of the National Assembly.

The **Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate** provides all professional and technical services with respect to the translation, revision, publishing and printing of bills and translates and revises administrative and other texts.

The **General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs** advises Assembly authorities and administrative units in legal matters and provides professional expertise as regards the drafting of Private Members' public bills and private bills. It coordinates, plans and supervises the activities of the administrative units of the parliamentary sector and assists the Secretary General in his or her advisory role with respect to Assembly and committee proceedings.

The **Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate** prepares, sees to the orderly conduct of, and follows up on Assembly and committee proceedings. It publishes, in French and in English, the Order Paper and Notices and the Votes and Proceedings for every sitting, as well as the Standing Orders and Other Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly. It provides the expertise required for the planning, organization, conduct and reporting of committee proceedings.

The **Associate General Secretariat for Administration** provides services with respect to debates publishing and broadcasting, human resources, financial resources, procurement and audit, building management and material resources, computer services and telecommunications, security and food services. It assists the Secretary General in managing the administrative affairs of the Assembly and its digital information services.

The **Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate** coordinates the television broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and certain special events, along with the audio recording of proceedings and the transcription, revision and editing activities for the production of the *Journal des débats* (Hansard).

The **Building Management and Material Resources Directorate** is responsible for any construction, renovation, conservation, restoration, lay-out and maintenance work in or on the Assembly's buildings, and for furnishings and signage. It coordinates and monitors activities related to the following services: mail, courier, printing, reprography, office supplies and equipment and the distribution of parliamentary documents.

The **Computer Services and Telecommunications Directorate** advises the authorities on directions and policies in the area of computer data and systems and information technologies. It provides services in the area of computer technology and office automation and telecommunications, as well as training and support in the use of hardware, software and computer systems and contributes to development strategies for new technologies.

The **Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate** coordinates and supervises activities relating to budget preparation and follow-up, the recording of transactions, and procurement. It advises and assists Assembly authorities and directors in the areas of finance and procurement.

The **Human Resources Directorate** assists Assembly authorities and directors in administrative organization, personnel management, job evaluation and classification, and work organization. It co-ordinates and carries out activities relating to work organization, staffing, personnel management, labour relations, remuneration, working conditions, occupational health and safety and professional development.

The **Security Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on all security and safety measures and is responsible for the safety of persons and property as well as for the security of buildings and offices of the Assembly.

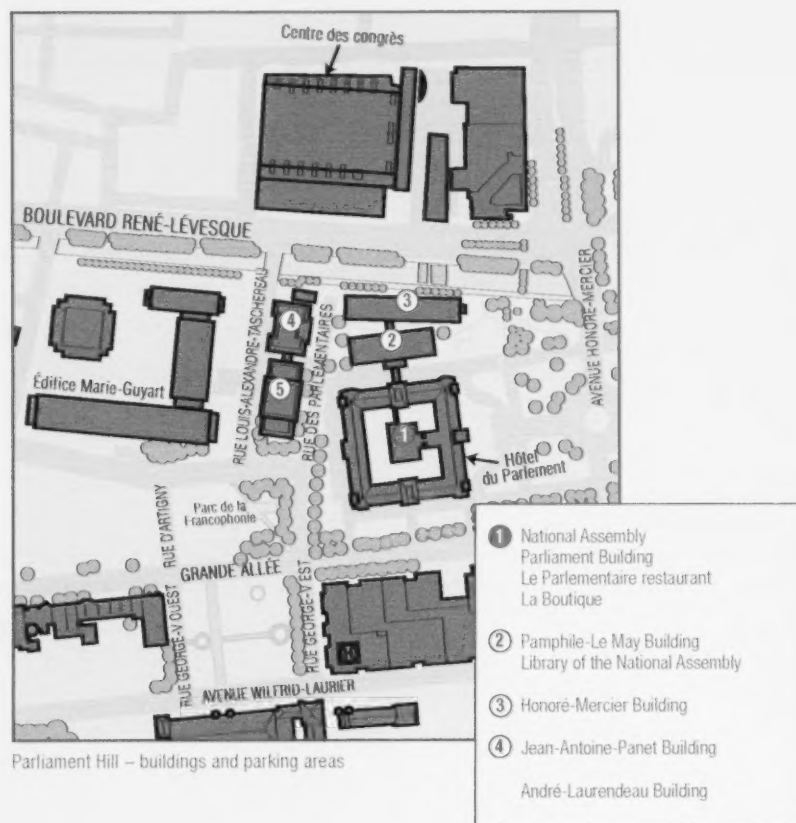
The **General Directorate for Institutional Affairs, Protocol and Visitor Services** provides professional and technical services with respect to communications, educational activities, protocol and interparliamentary and international relations. It provides protocol services for the Assembly as and prepares and oversees official ceremonies. Finally, it provides visitor and information services and guided tours of the Parliament Building, and manages the Assembly's gift shop.

The **Communications Directorate** promotes the Assembly's outreach by informing the public of its democratic role. It is responsible for the institution's communications and public relations. It provides graphics, integration, web design and linguistic services, as well as services to the Press Gallery.

The **Education in Parliamentary Democracy Directorate** coordinates the development and production of educational programs and materials for target clienteles, as well as provides professional and technical support for parliamentary simulations.

The **Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the National Assembly in this area.

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Parliament Hill – buildings and parking areas

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Parliament Building
1045, rue des Parlementaires
Québec City (Québec) G1A 1A3

General Information

Telephone: 418 643-7239
Toll-free number: 1 866 DÉPUTÉS (1 866 337-8837)
Fax: 418 646-4271
accueil@assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS

Regular hours

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Summer hours

24 June to Labour Day:
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 24 June and 1 July and
Labour Day, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Reservations are required for groups of more
than 10 people*

OUTDOOR GUIDED TOURS

24 June to Labour Day:
Monday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Information

Telephone: 418 643-7239
Fax: 418 646-4271
accueil@assnat.qc.ca

LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations

Telephone: 418 643-6640
Fax: 418 643-6378
resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE gift shop

Regular hours

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Summer hours

24 June to Labour Day:
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information

Telephone: 418 643-8785
Fax: 418 528-6022
laboutique@assnat.qc.ca

** Subject to change without notice*

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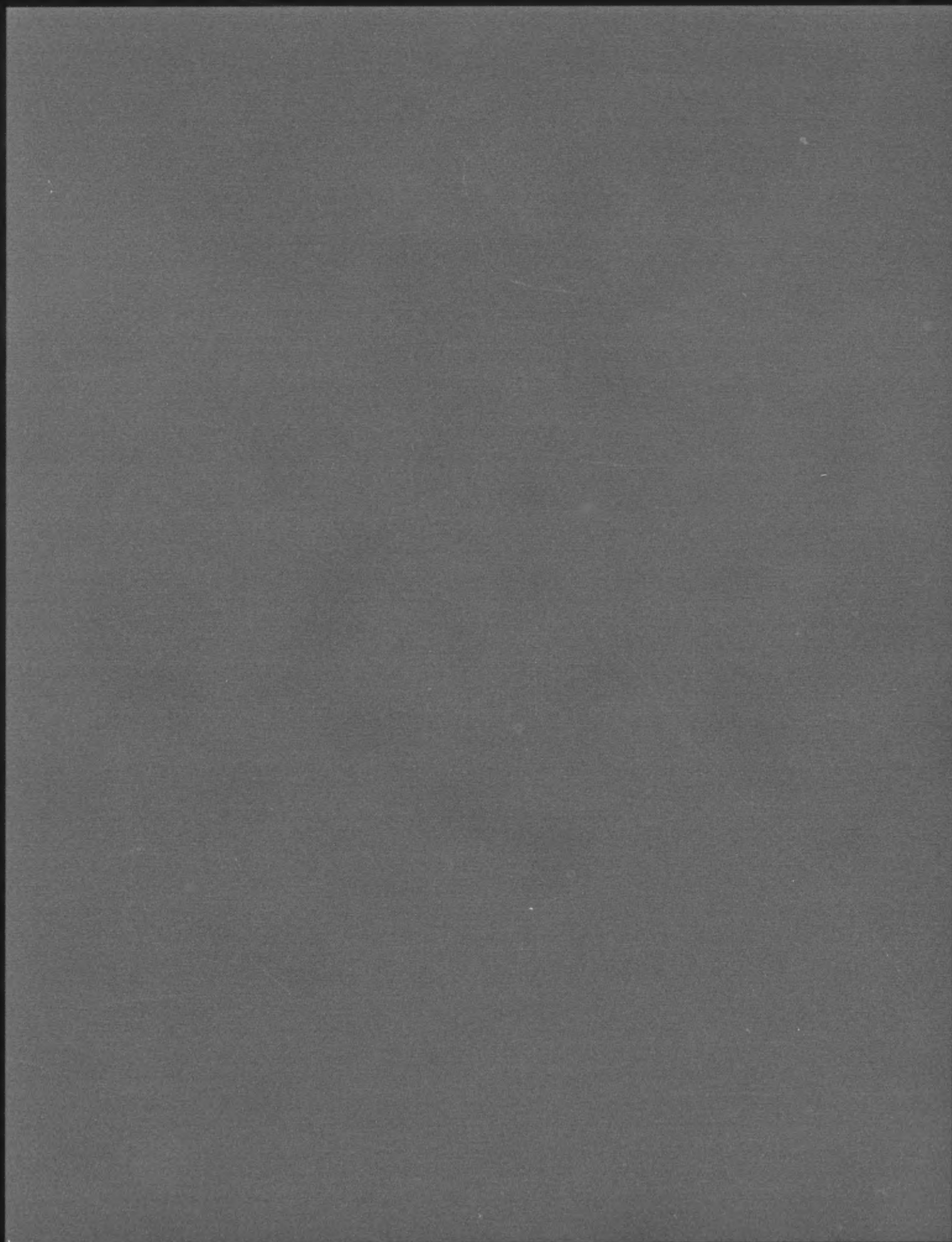
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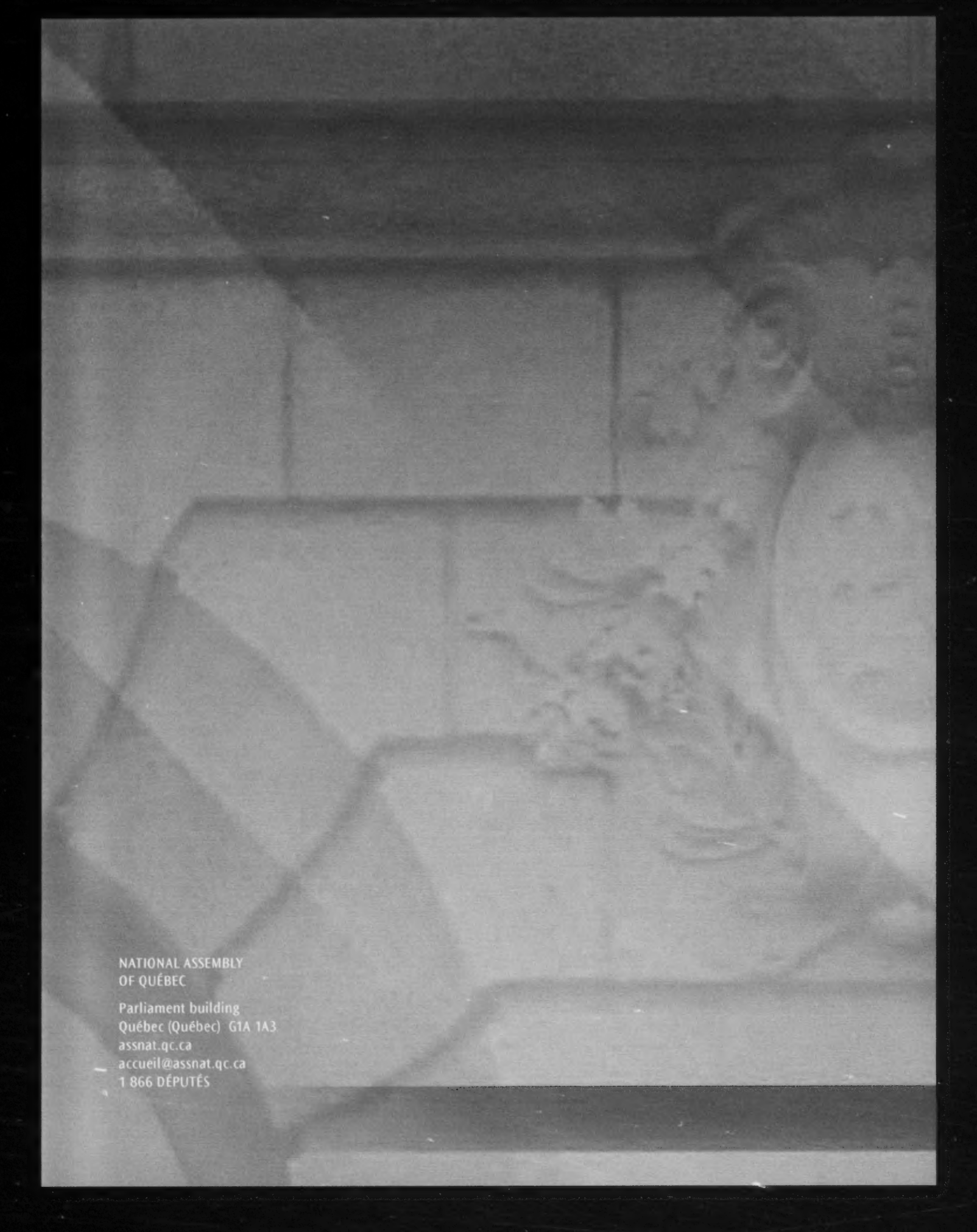
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